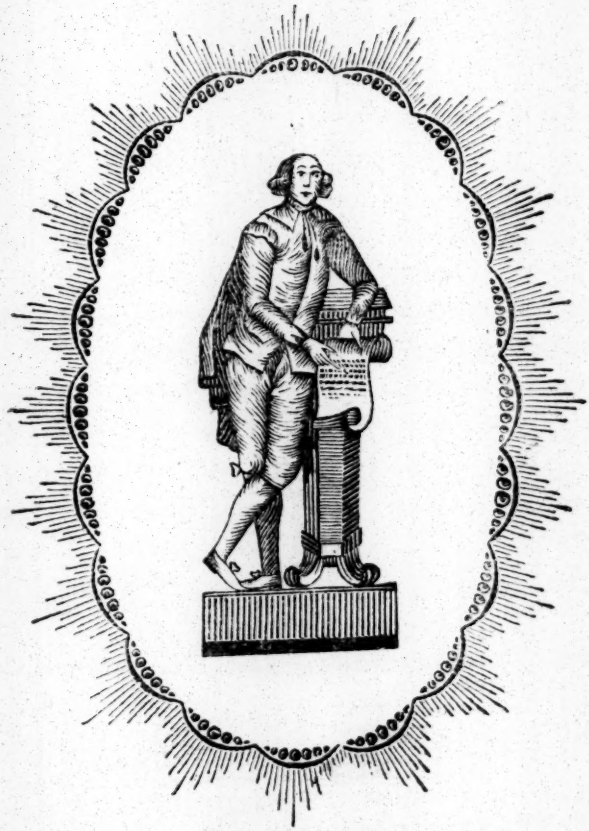
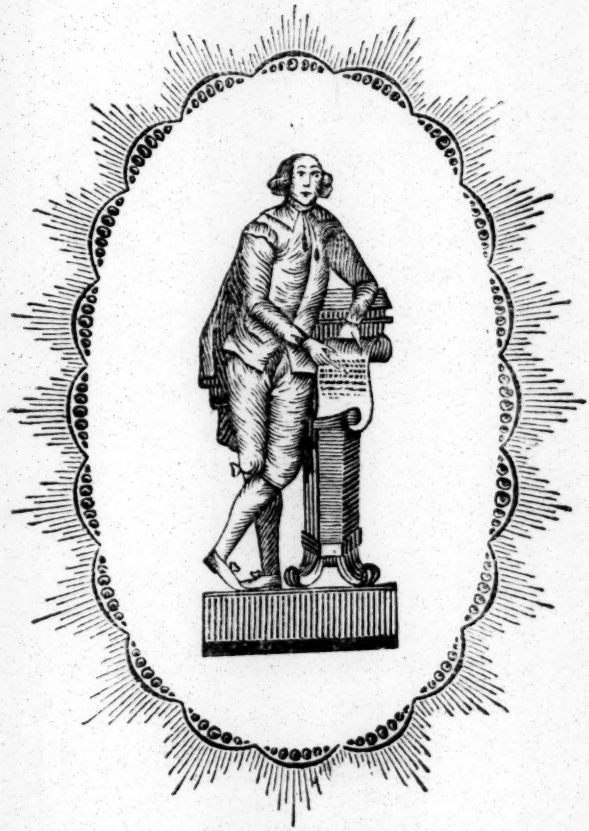


Not marble, nor the gilded monuments
Of princes, ſhall out-live 'thy' powerful rhyme;
But thou ſhalt ſhine more bright in 'their' contents,
Than unſwept ſtone beſmear'd with ſluttiſh time;
When waſteful war, ſhall ſtatues overturn,
And broils root out the works of maſonry;
Not MARS' *ſword, nor war's quick fire ſhall burn—*
The living record of 'thy' memory.

SHAKSPEARE, (*applied to himſelf.*)



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291 b34

A

BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,

WITH

A PARTICULAR

DESCRIPTION AND SURVEY,

OF THE

COLLEGIATE CHURCH,

THE MAUSOLEUM OF

SHAKSPEARE;

Containing all the

ARMORIAL BEARINGS,

AND

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS THEREIN:

To which is added, by way of Appendix,

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LIVES OF THE THREE EMINENT PRELATES, WHO DERIVE THEIR SIRNAMES FROM STRATFORD, THE PLACE OF THEIR NATIVITY.

Stratford,

PRINTED BY E. WALFORD,

AND SOLD BY

G. G. AND J. ROBINSON, LONDON; T. PEARSON, M. SWINNEY, GRAFTON AND REDDELL, AND T. WOOD, BIRMINGHAM; AND BY SEVERAL OTHER BOOKSELLERS IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICK.

GRATIS
BR. MUS

TO THE

Rev. JAMES DAVENPORT, D. D.

VICAR OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,

THIS

DESCRIPTION

OF

THAT CHURCH,

TO WHICH HE IS SO

GREAT AN ORNAMENT,

IS

HUMBLY DEDICATED,

BY

HIS MOST OBEDIENT

HUMBLE SERVANT,

The Author.

PREFACE.

THE Author of this little compilation, at firſt collected the Monumental Inſcriptions, &c. in STRATFORD CHURCH, merely for his own amuſement, and the employment of a few leiſure hours, without the leaſt intention of committing them to the preſs; but having ſince frequently heard it obſerved, that out of the great number of ſtrangers who annually viſit the *Mauſoleum of* SHAKSPEARE, many wiſhing to retain a remembrance of what they there ſaw, have expreſſed a deſire for ſuch a publication, he has been induced to correct and print them, conceiving that to ſuch perſons eſpecially, they may not be altogether unacceptable.

And as we have no printed account of the town itſelf, without referring to Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE's voluminous Hiſtory of War-

Warwickſhire (which valuable work, though it has gone through three editions, is at this time extremely ſcarce, and on account of its bulk, in many inſtances, inconvenient) he has alſo adventured to add, in as conciſe a manner as poſſible, a deſcription of whatever may be found worthy the inſpection of the curious, or intereſting in the ancient hiſtory of STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

In the *Appendix*, (for which he is in great meaſure indebted to the venerable GODWIN, *de Praeſulibus Angliae*) he has ſubjoined an account of the lives of JOHN, ROBERT, and RALPH DE STRATFORD, who being natives of the town of *Stratford-upon-Avon*, aſſumed their ſirnames from thence, a circumſtance that reflects no inconſiderable degree of honor upon the town, in producing three ſuch men, eminent as well for their learning and piety, as for the conſpicuous figure they make in the annals of Great Britain, having ſeverally arrived to the moſt exalted ſtations both in *Church and State*.

A

BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, famous for being the birth-place of SHAKSPEARE, is pleaſantly ſituated in the ſouth-weſt extremity of the county of Warwick, in the midſt of a fertile and highly cultivated vale, watered by the Avon, upon whoſe banks, is perhaps, ſome of the fineſt meadow and paſture land in the kingdom; this beautiful

river, which takes its ſource at the village of Naſeby, in Northamptonſhire, after paſſing by Warwick, is rendered navigable from hence, to its influx with the Severn at Tewkeſbury, and is by that means of infinite advantage to the inhabitants of Stratford, in conveying goods, merchandiſe, &c. to and from Briſtol, Glouceſter, Tewkeſbury, and other places.

In conſequence of its ſituation upon the great north road, the town of Stratford is viſited at all ſeaſons of the year, by numbers of perſons travelling to and from Ireland, and the northern counties of England;—many alſo of our great Poet's admirers, are induced hither, merely through a deſire to viſit the place of his nativity and death,

'Where his firſt infant lays, ſweet *Shakſpeare* ſung,—
'Where the laſt accents faulter'd on his tongue:'——

And with an enthuſiaſm approaching to religious zeal, haſten like pilgrims of old, to pay their devotions at the ſhrine of the immortal bard. The town itſelf is neat and well-built, conſiſting of nine principal ſtreets,

ſtreets, in which are ſome good inns, for the reception of travellers, the White Lion, (in particular) is noted for its genteel accommodations; according to a moderate computation, Stratford contains upon an average, 2000 inhabitants; it is 8 miles diſtant from Warwick, 18 from Coventry, 22 from Birmingham, 39 from Oxford, and from London 94 miles; here is a well attended market on the Thurſday, and ſeven annual fairs, viz. Firſt, the Thurſday after the 25th of March, for cattle, &c.— Second, the 14th of May, reſorted to by a vaſt concourſe of country people.—Third, the 25th of September, for cheeſe and hops, cattle, and various ſorts of ware.—Fourth, the ſecond Thurſday following the 25th of September, for the ſame.—The remaining three are held on the third Monday in February,—the laſt Monday in July, and on the ſecond Monday in December, for the ſale of fat and ſtore cattle, horſes, ſheep, &c.—A ſtatute or mop, for the hiring of ſervants, is alſo held on the morrow after old Michaelmas-day.

What particularly conduces to render the population of this town ſo ſmall, is a failure of its trade, which formerly was conſiderable in a ſpecies of *Woollen Cloth* called *Harrateens*, great quantities being annually got up for exportation; the call for that article has for many years been gradually declining, and we are ſorry to obſerve the trade at Stratford, is gone wholly to decay, a thing ſeriouſly to be lamented, that a Town poſſeſſing the advantages of a navigable river, with excellent roads, and in many other reſpects, inconteſtibly very eligibly ſituated for carrying on an extenſive manufactory, ſhould languiſh for want of ſome public ſpirited perſon, who would exert his influence in its eſtabliſhment.

Here are but few public buildings (except the Church) worthy the inſpection of the curious.

The CHAPEL OF THE GUILD, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a handſome gothic ſtructure, and was erected by the executors of Sir Hugh Clopton, Knight,

Lord

Lord Mayor of London, towards the close of the fifteenth century; its architecture is evidently designed to resemble the Chancel or Choir of the Church, being a very good imitation of that beautiful fabrick:—it contains in length, from east to west, 80 feet, and in breadth, from north to south, 24 feet; the height of the roof is 34 feet, that of the tower, (in which there are two bells) 53 feet.

The GUILDHALL, (where the corporation business is transacted) is a very ancient structure, though frequent repairs and alterations have given it a more modern appearance; it was built, together with the Alms-houses adjoining, (for twelve poor men, and an equal number of women) under the direction of Robert de Stratford, rector of the Church, who obtained permission of Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester, for that purpose, in the year 1296. This hall was appropriated to the use of the Guild of the Holy Cross, a fraternity that had existed here at a very early period, Robert de Stratford being master of the Guild at that time.

Over the hall is held a Free Grammar School, founded originally by — Jollepe, A. M. who was alſo a member of the ſame Guild, and afterwards confirmed by a charter granted to the town by King Edward the 6th.

The TOWN-HALL, a neat modern erection, was re-built by the corporation, aſſiſted by the contributions of the neighbouring gentry, in 1768, and dedicated to the memory of SHAKSPEARE, by GARRICK, (who compoſed and recited an *Ode* on the occaſion) at the Jubilee, the following year.

In a nitch on the north front is placed a a good ſtatue of our immortal townſman, erected alſo at that event; it repreſents the bard leaning upon a pillar, in imitation of his monument in *Weſtminſter Abbey*, and pointing to a ſcroll, on which is written the following lines, very aptly ſelected from his own Midſummer Night's Dream:——

The Poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heav'n to earth—from earth to heav'n;
And, as imagination bodies forth, the form of things unknown,

The

The Poet's pen turns them to ſhape, and gives to airy nothing—
A local habitation, and a name ——

On the pedeſtal beneath, are theſe words from Hamlet :—

---------- take him for all in all,
We ſhall not look upon his like again. ——

Within the great room, which is 60 feet long by 30 wide, are two very large and elegant paintings, viz. one of SHAKSPEARE, by *Wilſon*, and the other of GARRICK, by *Gainſborough*; theſe were preſented by *Garrick* himſelf, the year preceding the Jubilee.

The curious ſtranger will undoubtedly be led to enquire for the dwelling, in which the pride of Britain—*the immortal* SHAKSPEARE, firſt drew his breath ;—he will be directed to an ancient timber building, of a mean appearance, nearly adjoining to the White Lion Inn, at this time divided into two tenements, one a ſmall public houſe, the other, a butcher's ſhop ; theſe premiſes were inhabited in the middle of the ſixteenth century, by *Mr. John Shakſpeare*, a conſiderable dealer in wool, and here his eldeſt

eldeſt ſon WILLIAM was born, April the 23, 1564.

The houſe in which our Poet ſpent the latter part of his life, when he retired from the theatre, (and where his celebrated mulberry tree grew) was ſituated near the Chapel, and has been taken down many years.

Though the town of *Stratford-upon-Avon*, is not recorded for any memorable hiſtorical event, yet it certainly is a place of very great antiquity; the name is of Saxon origin, and evidently derived from its ſituation, *Streate* or *Strad*, ſignifying a Street or Highway, (being applied to the great road leading from Henley-in-Arden) joined with the *Ford*, or paſſage over the river Avon, where the bridge is now ſituated, whence it was written in the Saxon language, Stretford:——Sir William Dugdale, in his Antiquities of Warwickſhire, has preſerved what he calls a charter, which proves it to have been the ſite of a Monaſtery, at the very dawning of chriſtianity in this kingdom, ſo early as the time of Ethel-

red

red, the ſeventh king of Mercia, who began his reign in the year 676. This Monaſtery, together with the manor of Stratford, was granted to Saint Egwin, the third Biſhop of Worceſter, and founder of Eveſham Abbey, by Æthelard, a viceroy of the province of Wiccia, or Worceſter, in exchange for another Monaſtery, ſituated at Fladbury, which grant, Berthulph the nineteenth king of Mercia, afterwards confirmed to Biſhop Heabert, by a charter dated at Tamworth, in the year 845, where it is called Ufera Stretford, for what reaſon is unknown: we have no account when, or by whom this Monaſtery was diſſolved. William of Malmſbury does not mention it in his account of the Monaſteries in the dioceſe of Worceſter, whence it is probable that it was deſtroyed by the Danes.

It is certain, however, that the town of Stratford continued for many ages in the poſſeſſion of the ſucceeding biſhops, who always ſeem to have borne a more than ordinary affection for this their ancient manor, as evidently appears by their grants and interceſſions

terceſſions in its favour. In William the Conqueror's ſurvey, called *Doomſday Book*, it is written Stradford, and rated at fifteen hides and a half,* being in poſſeſſion of Saint Wolſtan, biſhop of Worceſter; there was at that time a Church, and a Mill yielding *ten ſhillings*, per annum, and a thouſand eels; but the annual value of the whole manor, is eſtimated at the amount of *twenty-five pounds*; equal in weight to about *ſeventy-five*, and in value to *two thouſand, two*

* The Hide was a meaſure of land uſed by the Saxons, and is of very uncertain dimenſions; Bede, who wrote in the beginning of the ſixth century, calls it in latin *familia*, as being ſufficient to maintain a family, or one farm; whence Matthew Paris, and other ancient hiſtorians, affirm it to be as much land as could be cultivated by one plough in a year:—Gervaſius Tilburienſis, grandſon to King Henry the ſecond, who wrote a book, entitled De Scaccario, makes the Hide contain one hundred acres:—Polydor Virgil, (who lived in the time of Henry the eighth) and ſome of the later writers, only twenty.—The word Hide, ſeems to have been derived from the ſtory in Virgil, of the origin of Carthage.—Æneid the firſt.

Taurino quantum poſſent circumdare tergo.

hundred

hundred and fifty pounds, of the preſent currency§.

John de Conſtantiis, who, according to Godwin, was conſecrated biſhop at this very town, October 20, 1196, procured a charter from King Richard the firſt, in the ſeventh year of his reign, for a weekly market to be held here on the Thurſday, which has continued ever ſince; he alſo, by his own deed confirmed to his Burgeſſes of Stratford, the inheritance of their Burgages, to each of whom he allotted a certain portion of land, paying for all ſervices to him and his ſucceſſors, the yearly rent of *twelve-pence*, in conſideration of which, he granted that they ſhould be free of toll for ever, excom-

§ The Norman pound conſiſted of twelve ounces of ſilver troy, and contained twenty ſhillings, the ſhilling twelve pence; conſequently their penny muſt be equal, at leaſt, to three of ours; ſhortly after the conqueſt, wheat was ſold for a penny the buſhel, within theſe few years, it has been at an average, ſeven ſhillings and ſix-pence the buſhel; the inference is, that the Norman pound being equal in weight to three, was alſo equal in value to *ninety pounds of the preſent currency*.

municating

municating all perſons, who ſhould dare to violate their privileges, which were again confirmed by Maugerius his ſucceſſor:—Walter Grey, who was tranſlated from Litchfield to Worceſter, in the year 1214, procured a charter from King John, in the latter part of his reign, for an annual Fair to be held here on the eve of the Holy Trinity, to continue that, and the two following days; ſeveral other Fairs were alſo eſtabliſhed by the ſucceeding prelates, who kept poſſeſſion of the town, until the year 1549, when Nicholas Heath, (the ſeventy-ſecond biſhop) paſſed it away to John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and Earl of Warwick, in exchange for Lands in Worceſterſhire, after they had been Lords thereof, upwards of eight hundred years:—The Duke of Northumberland being afterwards attainted and beheaded by Queen Mary, for ſupporting the pretenſions of the Lady Jane Grey, the manor of Stratford, together with all his other vaſt poſſeſſions, were confiſcated to the crown, from whence it paſſed through ſeveral ſucceſſive owners, until at length, it became

became the property of the noble family of the Sackvilles, firſt Earls, and afterwards Dukes of Dorſet, with whom it ſtill continues,——His preſent Grace, John Frederic Sackville, Duke of Dorſet, and Earl of Middleſex, being lord of the manor, and high ſteward of the town of Stratford.

As it would too far extend our limits to enter into a circumſtantial detail of every particular relating to the town, we ſhall only obſerve, that it was firſt incorporated and governed by a bailiff and aldermen, in the laſt year of the reign of King Edward the ſixth, by a charter dated June the 28th, 1553, when the ancient Guild of the Holy Croſs being diſſolved, their poſſeſſions, valued at that time, at upwards of fifty pounds, *per annum*, together with the great tithes, were appropriated to their uſe; out of which they were enjoined by the charter, to maintain a vicar, curate, and ſchoolmaſter,—pay the alms-people their weekly ſtipend, and repair the chapel, bridge, and other public ſtructures.——Upon the reſtoration of King Charles the ſecond, this charter was called in

and confirmed, and a new one by him granted, with many very extenſive privileges, when the government of the town was veſted in twenty-four of the principal inhabitants, twelve of whom were entitled aldermen, and the remaining twelve capital burgeſſes ; out of this body they annually elect a mayor, as ſupreme magiſtrate ; they have alſo a recorder, (Sir John Mordaunt, Baronet) his deputy, and a town clerk :—the laſt charter bears date at Weſtminſter, Auguſt the 31ſt, 1664, in the ſixteenth year, of the reign of King Charles the ſecond.

THE

THE CHURCH.

THE COLLEGIATE PARISH CHURCH of *Stratford-upon-Avon*, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was formerly a rectory, valued, according to Dugdale, in the year 1291, at thirty-five marks;*

* The Mark in the time of Edward the firſt, was eight ounces of ſilver; that monarch in the year 1279, eſtabliſhed a new coinage, when twenty pennies were required to weigh an ounce troy.—To enable the reader to form ſome eſtimate of the value of money at that period, compared with the preſent, we ſhall quote a paſſage from Stow's Annals, page 312. "This yeere (1299) was made an act of common councell for prices of victuals, to be ſolde at London, by conſent of the King and Nobilitie, concerning the price of powltrie; a fatte cocke for three-half-pence, two pullets for three-half-pence, a fatte capon for two-pence

it continued in the donation of the biſhopric of Worceſter, (in which dioceſe it ſtands) until the year 1336, when John de Stratford, archbiſhop of Canterbury, purchaſed it of biſhop Montacute and preſented it to a chauntry he had founded five years before, when biſhop of Wincheſter: this chauntry conſiſted of five prieſts, two of whom (the warden and ſub-warden) were perpetual, the other three were elected and removed at the pleaſure of the warden;—it was required of them to celebrate divine ſervice, to the honor of God, in a chapel dedicated to Saint Thomas the martyr, *(Thomas a Beckett)* adjoining to the ſouth aile of the church, which the pious founder had lately re-edified, at his own expence; he procured for them an ample charter of privileges, from King Edward the third, and ſettled upon them for their main-

pence half-penny, a gooſe four-pence, a mallard three-half-pence, a partridge three-half-pence, a feſant four-pence, a heron ſix-pence, a plover one penny, a ſwanne three ſhillings, a crane twelve-pence, two woodcocks three-half-pence, a fatte lambe from Chriſtmaſſe to Shrovetide ſixteen-pence, and all the whole yeere after for four-pence."

tenance

tenance the manor of Inge, or Ingen, with other lands and tenements in this parish.

Ralph de Stratford, who was also of the same family with the archbishop, and himself bishop of London, twenty-one years after the establishment of this chauntry, erected a large substantial mansion-house, adjoining to the church-yard, for the residence of the priests; and in the first year of the reign of King Henry the fifth, that monarch confirmed their charter, which he enriched with several additional privileges. Their immunities being thus settled, and their revenues also by this time very much increased, by the donations of several benefactors, (amongst whom were Adam de Styvington, who gave a portion of land at Ingen; Nicholas de Dudley, rector of King's Swinford, who gave seventy-three acres of land, four messuages, and fifteen-pence yearly rent at Dudley, in Worcestershire, with right of pasture in the wood called Pensyned, near Dudley; and John Noie and Roger de Dishere, priests, who gave eight messuages, three shops, and three

tofts in Stratford) it ſoon after acquired the appellation of a college, the warden being termed dean of the collegiate church of Stratford-upon-Avon:—in this ſtate it continued until the ſurvey made by King Henry the eighth, in the year 1535, when its revenues were certified to be, according to Dugdale, one hundred and twenty-eight pounds, nine ſhillings, and one penny, *per annum*,* but Speed and Godwin ſay, only one hundred and twenty-three pounds, eleven ſhillings, and nine-pence; ſhortly after the ſurvey, it

* Stow in his annals, page 959, ſays, "It was this yeere enacted, (1533) that butchers ſhould ſell their beefe and mutton by weight, beefe for a half-penny the pound, and mutton three-farthings; which being deviſed for the great commodity of the realme, (as it was thought) hath prooved farre otherwiſe, for at that time, fatte oxen were ſolde for ſixe and twenty ſhillings, and eight-pence the peece, fatte weathers for three ſhillings and four-pence the peece, fatte calves of the like price, a fatte lambe for twelve-pence, &c." whence we may infer, that *one pound* in the time of Henry the eighth, was at leaſt equal to *ten pounds* of ours, conſequently the revenues of the college, as above, being *one hundred and twenty-eight pounds, nine ſhillings, and one penny* per annum, muſt be worth *one thouſand, two hundred and eighty-four pounds, ten ſhillings, and ten-pence* of the preſent currency.

was

was ſuppreſſed, together with every other monaſtic inſtitution throughout the kingdom.

In this ſurvey, no particular valuation is made of the church, being included with the other revenues of the college, at the diſſolution of which, it was eſtabliſhed into a vicarage, with the juriſdiction of a peculiar, and has always continued in the gift of the ſucceeding lords of the manor, his Grace the Duke of Dorſet being the preſent patron. The annual ſtipend of the vicar, at the firſt eſtabliſhment, was only twenty pounds, but it has been increaſed at different periods, and is at preſent one hundred guineas, *per annum*, excluſive of a good parſonage houſe, about ſeven acres of glebe land, and the ſurplice fees, which (from the town and its ten adjacent hamlets) amount to a conſiderable ſum.—The great tithes we have before remarked, are impropriated to the corporation.

PATRONS and INCUMBENTS of the CHURCH and COLLEGE.

Patrons of the Rectory.	*Rectors.*	
Biſhops of Worceſter	William de Grenefeld	1294
	James de Aniſio -	1310

Patrons

Patrons of the Rectory.	*Rectors.*	
Biſhops of Worceſter	John Vanne - -	1313
	Henry de Haſtings -	1316
	Robert de Stratford -	1330
	John Geraud -	1334
Patrons of the Chauntry.	*Wardens.*	
John, Biſhop of Wincheſter.	John de Offchirch -	1331
	John de Suthwaltham -	1336
Biſhops of Worceſter	John Geraud -	1339
	Hugh de Ferrariis -	1354
	William Boys -	1368
	Thomas at Neude -	1384
	Thomas Mile -	1384
Patrons of the Collegiate Church.	*Deans.*	
Biſhops of Worceſter	Richard Praty -	1423
	Henry Sever -	1436
	Thomas Balfall -	1465
	Ralph Collingwode -	1491
	John Bell	
	Anthony Barker	
Patrons of the Vicarage	*Vicars.*	
Queen Mary ——	Roger Dioos -	1553
Queen Elizabeth —	John Brechgirdle -	1560
Ambroſe, Earl of Warwick ——	Henry Heicroft -	1569
	Richard Barton -	1584
Richard Alchurch —	John Ruſhton -	1589
Edward Greville, Eſq.	John Bramhall -	1595
	Richard Bifield -	1598
	John Rogers -	1610

Patrons

Patrons of the Vicarage.	*Vicars.*	
King James ——	Thomas Wilſon -	1619
King Charles, I. —	Henry Twichet -	1640
	Alexander Beane -	1648
King Charles, II.	John Ward - -	1662
Charles, Earl of Dorſet	Joſiah Simcox -	1681
and Middleſex —	John Trapp -	1683
	Richard Croft -	1685
	John Ovington -	1701
	John Jackſon -	1702
	Thomas Willes -	1702
	Nicholas Brady, D. D.	1704
Lionel, firſt Duke of	Richard Synge -	1705
Dorſet ——	Walwyn Meeſe, A. M.	1709
	Edward Deane -	1729
	Edward Kenwrick, A. M.	1736
	Stephen Naſon, A. M.	1763
John, Frederic, Duke of Dorſet —	James Davenport, D. D.	1787

This ancient and venerable ſtructure is built in the gothic ſtyle, of all others, the beſt adapted to religious purpoſes, in that it poſſeſſes an air of awful grandeur and ſolemnity, peculiar to itſelf, and utterly unknown to the more celebrated productions of Greece or Rome; though it cannot be called a complete and perfect ſpecimen of architecture, yet it is certainly in many reſpects

ſpects greatly ſuperior to the generality of pariſh churches; its ſituation is truly romantic, on the ſouthern extremity of the town, in the midſt of a ſpacious cemetery, unuſually crowded with the frail memorials of the dead:——

'*Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap*;'——

Bounded on the eaſt ſide by the river Avon, on whoſe banks, a plantation of ancient and lofty elms, partially obſcure the fabric, which is totally unincumbered with buildings; add to this its vicinity to the venerable* manſion houſe, formerly the reſidence of

* This venerable Pile, which has exiſted through a lapſe of *four hundred and forty-ſix years*, and ſince the diſſolution, has been inhabited by ſeveral very reſpectable and honorable families, viz. the COMBE's, CLOPTON's, KITE's, KENDALL's, *&c.* is now doomed to fall, (*though in perfect repair, and ſome parts of it fitted up in the modern taſte*) by its preſent poſſeſſor, Edmund Batterſbee, Eſq. in which the town of Stratford will ſhortly be deprived of one of its GREATEST ORNAMENTS!——Thus the caprice of individuals, conſpires with the iron hand of time, to bury in oblivion, every local monument, of the fervent though miſtaken piety of our remote forefathers:——

Sir

of the chauntry prieſts, and the whole form a combination of objects, highly grateful as well to the antiquary, as to the admirer of the pictureſque and beautiful.

Camden in his Britannia, ſpeaking of this town, affirms the church to have been erected by archbiſhop Stratford, which aſſertion we do not heſitate to contradict, as it evidently appears to any perſon, the leaſt acquainted with gothic edifices, that the greater part of it may lay claim to a much earlier date, as we ſhall endeavour to prove: in this kingdom are two diſtinct orders of gothic architecture, one of them denominated the Saxon, the other the Norman go-

'*Sic tranſit gloria mundi!*'

Yet the page of hiſtory ſhall record them,—the pen of the *immortal* DUGDALE ſhall preſerve them, in whoſe invaluable works they ſhall be ſeen, ſo long as a taſte for literature prevails, and books exiſt;——

---------- *quod nec Jovis ira, nec ignis,*
Nec poterit ferrum, nec edax abolere vetuſtas:

And tranſmitted down to the lateſt poſterity, when the fabrics themſelves, would, in the common courſe of things, have mouldered into duſt!

thic,

thic, from the people who firſt introduced them; the Saxon buildings are ſtrong, heavy and uncouth, their walls are uniformly thick and plain, for they uſed not the buttreſs, their arches are either ſemicircular, or in the ſhape of an horſe-ſhoe, their pillars, ſhort and thick, and either round or hexagonal; on the contrary, the Norman edifices, have a peculiar light and airy appearance, and their walls are always ſtrengthened by the addition of buttreſſes, they firſt introduced the cluſtered pillar and pointed arch;—now the attentive ſpectator may diſcover in our church evident traces of both theſe orders, here are walls which originally were plain, and have long ſince their erection been ſtrengthened by buttreſſes; here is both the hexagonal and cluſtered pillar, and the ſemicircular and pointed arch; this union of ſtyle frequently occurs in buildings erected ſhortly after the Norman conqueſt, and is a convincing proof, that our church muſt have been built, at ſome period between the date of that event 1066, and the beginning of the thirteenth century,

or

or the reign of king Henry the third, when the Saxon gothic began to be wholly excluded, and the light and airy ſtyle imported from Normandy, then came into general uſe.

Though we cannot pretend to determine who was the original founder, yet might a conjecture be allowed, it ſeems moſt probable that it was one of the biſhops of Worceſter, who were then in poſſeſſion of the town, the arms of that dioceſe, are yet exiſting amongſt the inlaid or moſaic tiles, with which ſome parts of the church were formerly paved.

The building itſelf, conſiſts (as is cuſtomary with churches dedicated to the Holy Trinity) of a nave with ſide ailes, a tranſept or croſs aile, and a chancel or choir; ſome of which have been taken down and rebuilt at different periods: the tranſept, according to Dudgale, was erected by the executors of Sir Hugh Clopton, in the cloſe of the fifteenth century; it is certain Sir Hugh bequeathed fifty pounds for that

purpoſe, which ſum probably was expended in repairing this and other parts of the church; for the building has every appearance of being of equal antiquity with the tower, which is evidently of much earlier date. The ſouth aile, a good uniform ſtructure and ſtrongly buttreſſed, was wholly rebuilt by John de Stratford, in the beginning of the fourteenth century, during the time he was biſhop of Wincheſter: at the eaſt end of this aile he founded his chapel of Saint Thomas, before noticed; beſides this, there were formerly in the church three other chapels, one at the eaſtern extremity of the north aile, dedicated to the Holy Virgin, and two in the nave, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and Saints Peter and Paul.

The Chancel is the moſt modern and beautiful ſpecimen of gothic architecture, in the whole fabric: it was erected in the fifteenth century, an æra when that kind of architecture had arrived to its higheſt degree of purity and perfection, by Thomas Balſall, D. D. ſometime between the year 1465,

1465, when he was inſtituted warden of the College, and 1491 the period of his death. Whether the pious warden defrayed the expences of its erection out of his private property, or made uſe of the college revenues, is uncertain; but an inſcription preſerved by Sir William Dugdale, and formerly exiſting in one of the windows, records it to have been done under his direction. Theſe windows are beautifully finiſhed, and were originally decorated with painted glaſs, which muſt have had a fine effect; at preſent, however, there is none remaining, except a few fragments confuſedly arranged in the centre of that towards the eaſt: at the entrance on each ſide is a range of ancient ſtalls, rendered worthy the inſpection of the curious, by the ſingular manner in which the lower part of each ſeat is carved, being wrought into a great variety of groteſque hieroglyphics, ſome of them capable of a religious or moral explanation: a little beyond theſe ſtalls is a ſmall door-way, leading into a very antique

ſtructure; whether this was a part of the firſt church, or what is more probable, of the monaſtery, which Leland and Sir William Dugdale imagine to have been ſituated near this ſpot, is uncertain; however from the vaſt collection of human bones it contains, the vault beneath muſt have been uſed for many ages for no other purpoſe than as a charnel houſe.

The Nave is a regular and well-built ſtructure, ſupported on each ſide by ſix hexagonal pillars, terminating in pointed arches. At the weſt end is a large and elegant window, a very fine ſpecimen of that kind of architecture, juſtly admired for its light and airy workmanſhip, and the judicious arrangement of the mullions or bars of ſtone work: here is a good organ, erected about the middle of the preſent century, the expence being defrayed by a ſubſcription; and a handſome branched chandelier ſuſpended from the middle beam of the roof; the gift of Mrs. Sarah Woolmer, 1720.

The

The Tower, which has a very antique appearance, (from whence Dugdale imagines the church to be as old as the conqueſt) is built upon four pointed arches, ſupported by maſſy cluſtered pillars: it is thirty feet ſquare, and contains ſix muſical bells. Upon this tower originally was a timber ſpire covered with lead, but being very low and unhandſome, it was taken down about the middle of the preſent century, to make place for the preſent, then erected at the expence of the inhabitants by an architect from Warwick.

Before we quit the deſcription of the church, it may not be improper to notice a circumſtance, which, if we are not deceived, is ſingular of its kind: over the weſt door-way leading into the nave, are three empty gothic niches conjoined, their ſpiral canopies ſhooting into the large window before noticed: ſimilar niches to theſe are to be ſeen in the chapel of Saint Thomas, and oppoſite the altar, from the circumſtances of their occurring three ſeveral times, and in three diſtinct parts of the

whole fabric, their being uniform, triple and conjoined, we have been led to imagine they were originally erected as types of the holy and indiviſible Trinity to which the church is dedicated, ſuch churches being uſually built with three ailes, ſeems in ſome degree to corroborate the conjecture.

DIMENSIONS OF THE CHURCH.

	Feet.
Length of the Nave — —	98
Breadth of ditto, with ſide Ailes —	62
Height of ditto — — —	50
Length of the Tranſept — —	88
Breadth of ditto — — —	23
Length of the Chancel — —	66
Breadth of ditto — —	25
Height of ditto — —	42
Total length from Eaſt to Weſt —	191
Height of the Tower — —	85
Height of ditto, with the Spire —	171

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

IN THE

CHURCH.

AT the eaſt end of the north aile, as we have before obſerved, was the altar and chapel of the bleſſed Virgin, at this time decorated with numerous hatchments and ſepulchral monuments, belonging to the ancient family of the Cloptons, who derive their ſirnames from the manor and manſion-houſe of Clopton, ſituated about a mile and a half diſtant from Stratford, of which they have been in uninterrupted poſſeſſion, upwards of five hundred years, being granted by Peter de Montford to James de Clopton, ſo

ſo early as the time of King Henry the third, ſince that period they have conſtantly made it their principal place of reſidence; almoſt every ſucceeding heir of this worthy family, has been a ſucceſſive benefactor to this town, but it is in a peculiar manner indebted to the munificence of Sir HUGH CLOPTON, a younger brother, who was a wealthy mercer, and citizen of London, at which place he bore the office of lord mayor, in the year 1492, and eighth of the reign of King Henry the ſeventh. At his own expence and during his life time, he erected the ſtone bridge and cauſeway, built over the wideſt part of the Avon, conſiſting of nineteen arches, and containing in length, three hundred and ſeventy-ſix yards. He had likewiſe laid the foundation of the beautiful chapel of the Holy Trinity, but unfortunately dying before it could be completed, in his will he directed it to be finiſhed by his executors:—he alſo bequeathed two hundred pounds to the college eſtabliſhed here, one hundred marks to be given to twenty poor maidens of good name, reſiding

ſiding in Stratford, on the day of their reſpective marriages, one hundred pounds to be divided among the poor houſholders, and fifty pounds to rebuild the croſs aile of the pariſh church :—ſuch were the the extenſive benefactions of this *truly good*, and *public ſpirited man*, ſo far as they relate to Stratford ; the city of London and other places, were equally the objects of his generoſity, he died unmarried, the fifteenth day of September, in the year 1497, and was buried according to his appointment in the church of Saint Margaret Lothbury, London, which was conſumed in the great fire of 1666.

The moſt ancient monument of this family, is an altar tomb raiſed about four feet and a half from the pavement, conſtructed of free-ſtone carved, with many pannels deſigned for ſhields of arms, which being of braſs, have been long ſince torn away: it is covered with a large marble ſlab, without either effigy or inſcription, which renders it impoſſible to determine for whom it was erected.

On

On the north ſide of the chapel is another raiſed tomb, on which lie the effigies in white marble, of a man in armour, and his conſort by his ſide; the following inſcription is cut round the verge of the ſlab on which they are placed, ſome parts being defaced, is here ſupplied from Sir William Dugdale's hiſtory of Warwickſhire.

'Here lyeth the bodies of William Clopton, Eſq. and Anne his wiffe, daughter of Sir George Griffiths, Knight, which William deceſſed the xviijth of April, 1592; the ſaid Anne deceſſed the xvijth of September, 1596'.——

The armorial bearings on this monument are:—*Paly of ſix, Or and Azure, a lion rampant counterchanged of the field*; for Clopton; impaling;—*Gules, on a feſſe dancette Argent, between ſix lions rampant Or; three martlets Sable*; for Griffiths.—A family originally of Welch extraction, but were ſettled in Warwickſhire ſo early as the reign of King Edward the third, when Sir Reſe ap Griffiths having married an heireſs of the Somerviles, by her means became poſſeſſed of the manor of Stockton in that county, in whoſe poſterity it continued until the reign of Henry the

the eighth, when it was ſold by Sir George Griffiths, the perſon here alluded to.

The next is an elegant monument, erected to the memory of George Carew, Earl of Totneſs, and baron of Clopton, one of the heroes that grace the annals of Queen Elizabeth. The baſe or front of the tomb is of white marble, and carved in bas-relief, repreſenting great guns, chambers, culverins, match-lock muſkets, and every other kind of warlike engine or weapon in uſe in thoſe days, being emblematical of his office of maſter of the ordnance: at each end of the tomb, is placed a column of the corinthian order, the ſhaft of black marble and the capital of white; each of theſe ſupport an entablature, projecting from a fluted pilaſter of the ſame order in the wall, upon which is the alabaſter figure of an angel with its wings extended; between theſe and beneath an ornamented arch, enriched with figures of angels and cherubims, and decorated with numerous ſhields of arms, and warlike accoutrements, lie the effigies of the noble Earl, together with that

that of Joice his Counteſs, eldeſt daughter of William Clopton, Eſq. whoſe monument was laſt noticed: theſe figures are alſo of alabaſter, the Earl is repreſented in armour, over which is his mantle of eſtate, and a coronet on his head.

On a large eſcutcheon above this monument, are the following arms:—

1 *Or, three lions paſſant Sable, armed and lingued Gules.*
2 *Parted per pale Gules and Ermine, a ſaltire counterchanged.*
3 *Argent, three eagles diſplayed Gules.*
4 *Quarterly Argent and Gules.*
5 *Argent, three adders proper.*
6 *Gules, a dexter arm in a maunch, graſping a fleur-de-lis, Or.*
7 *Vairy Argent and Azure, a chief checquered, Or and Gules.*
8 *Gules, two bendlets indented Or.*
9 *Sable, ſix mollets, three, two and one Argent.*
10 *Per chevron Argent and Sable.*
11 *Bendy of ſeven pieces, Argent and Sable.*
12 *Azure, a bend Or, over all a file Gules.*
13 *Gules,*

13 *Gules, four fuſils in feſſe Ermine.*
14 *Gules, three bezants. A file Argent.*
15 *Gules, three arches Argent.*
16 *Argent, a feſſe, between three boars paſſant Sable.*

On other parts of the monument, are the arms of Clopton and Griffiths, as given before,—and the following ;——

1 *Gules, a bend Argent, charged with three trefoils ſlipped, Vert.*
2 *Six bars, Argent and Vert, three torteaux's in chief, a file for diſtinction.*

Of the life and actions of this great man, a better account cannot be given in ſo few words, than the inſcription on his monument, which is to the following effect :—

THOMAS STAFFORDUS, ſtrenuus militum ductor in Hibernia, et merito ſuo, eques auratus; ſereniſſimis magnae Britanniae regibus Jacobo et Carolo, eorumque conjugibus, Annae et Henriettae-Mariae, ob fidelem praeſtitam operam inter domeſticos*

* Sir Thomas Stafford was the author of a folio book, entitled Paccata Hibernia, or Ireland Appeaſed and Reduced, printed at London, in 1633, in this work he was aſſiſted by his friend, the earl of Totneſs.

charus; quia cum illuſtri Comite ejuſque conjuge diu familiariter vixit, hic pariter requieſcere voluit donec Chriſti redemptoris voce ad aeternam gloriam induendam, una cum triumphatis beatorum coelis reſuſcitabitur ſuperſtitibus;—Valedixit anno ab exhibito in carne Meſſiae ſupra Milleſſimum ſexenteſſimum . . . . . poſtquam omnibus notis gratis, annos vixiſſet . . . . . .

D. O. M.

Et Memoriae Sacrum,

Qui in ſpem immortalitatis, mortales hic depoſuit exuvias, Georgius Carew; antiquiſſima, nobiliſſimaque ortus proſapia, eadem ſcilicet maſcula ſtirpe qua illuſtriſſimae Giraldinorum† in Hibernia, et Windeſorienſium§ in Anglia, familiae, a Carew caſtro in agro Pembrochienſi, cognomen ſortitus eſt; Ab ineunte

† This illuſtrious family derive their deſcent from Maurice Fritz Gerald, an Engliſhman, and of great renown among the firſt conquerors of Ireland; in 1170, he married Neſta, daughter of Gruffin, Prince of Wales, from whom were deſcended all the noble families of the Geralds, or Geraldines, in Ireland, the earls of Deſmond, Kildare, and Ormond.

§ This ancient and noble family, are deſcended from Walter Fritz Other, a Norman, caſtellan of Windſor, to the Conqueror, whoſe deſcendants were ſummoned to parliament as barons of Windſor, by King Richard the ſecond, Thomas lord Windſor dying without iſſue, in the reign of King Charles the ſecond, his titles and eſtates deſcended to his nephew Thomas Windſor Hickman, afterwards created earl of Plymouth.

ætate

aetate bellicis ſtudiis innutritus, ordines in Hibernia adhuc juvenis, contra rebellem Deſmoniae Comitem primum duxit.— Poſtea Elizabethae faeliciſſimae memoriae Reginae, in eodem regno, conſiliarius, et tormentorum bellicorum praefectus fuit;— Quo etiam munere, in variis expeditionibus, in illa praeſertim longe celeberima, qua Gades† Hiſpaniae expugnatae ſunt, anno M, D, XCVI, feliciter perfunctus eſt. Demum cum Hibernia univerſa domeſticae rebellionis et Hiſpanicae invaſionis incendio*

* Gerald Fritz Gerald, the eleventh of that family who were earls of Deſmond; a moſt powerful and factious nobleman, who having aſſiſted the Spaniards and Iriſh rebels in their attempts to reduce that kingdom, and continued in open rebellion againſt Queen Elizabeth for the ſpace of three years, was at length defeated by Arthur lord Grey, the deputy, and ignominiouſly ſlain by a common ſoldier, in the year 1583.

† The expedition againſt Cadiz, one of the moſt brilliant and ſucceſsful exploits in the glorious reign of Elizabeth, was commanded by Robert Devereaux, earl of Eſſex, and Charles lord Howard, admiral of England; to whom were added, Thomas lord Howard, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Vere, Sir George Carew, and Sir Conyers Clifford, the flower of Engliſh chivalry; having taken and deſtroyed a large fleet of ſhips, laid the flouriſhing town of Cadiz in aſhes, and burnt and pillaged the whole iſland; they returned home laden with honour and riches,---for the Spaniards were ſaid to ſuſtain by this expedition alone, a loſs equal to twenty million of ducats.

flagraret, Momoniae praefectus, per integrum triennium contra hoſtes tam internos quam externos, multa fortiter fideliterque geſſit.—Tandem in Angliam revocatus a Jacobo Magnae Britanniae rege, ad Baronis de Clopton, dignitatem evectus, Annae reginae procamerarius et theſaurarius, tormentorum bellicorum per totam Angliam praefectus, Garnſeiae Inſulae gubernator conſtitutus, et in ſecretioris conſilii ſenatum coaptatus eſt. Jacobo deinde ad coeleſtam patriam evocato; Carolo filio uſque charus fuit, ut inter alia non vulgaria benevoli, effectus indicia, ab eo Comitis de Totneſs, honore ſolenni inveſtitura exornatus fuit.*

Tantus vir, natalium ſplendore illuſtris, belli et pacis artibus ornatiſſimus, magnos honores propria virtute conſecutus, cum ad plenam et adultam ſenectutem perveniſſet, pie placideque animam Deo creatori reddidit, Londini, in aedibus Sabaudiae, Anno Dominicae encarnationis, juxta Anglicam computationem, M,DC,XXIX, die Martii, xxvij. Vixit annos LXXIII menſes fere decem.

Joiſia Clopton, cujus effigies, hic cernitur, antiqua Cloptonorum familia, filia primogenita et haeres, ex ſemiſſe Gulielmi Clopton de Clopton armigeri;—conjux maeſtiſſima viri chariſſimi, et optime mariti (cum quo vixit annos XLIX.) memoriae pariter ac ſuae, in ſpem foeliciſſimae reſurrectionis, monumentum hoc, pro ſupremo munere, non ſine lachrymis conſecravit.

* A borough town upon the river Dart, in Devonſhire, a place of great antiquity, celebrated by the ancient Britiſh hiſtorians, as being the landing place of Brutus, firſt king of Britain.

Illa

Illa vixit annos 78, et 14 die Januarii obiit, Anno Domini incarnationis, M,DC,XXXVI.

Againſt the eaſt wall of the ſame chapel, is a tablet monument, with the following arms and inſcription:—

Quarterly 1ſt. and 4th. Argent, on a croſs Gules, five leopards heads, Or. 2nd. and 3rd. Argent, a chevron between three creſcents Sable; for Walker, impaling;—*Azure, a croſs of lozenges, Ermine,*—for Reeve.

M. S.

EDWARDI WALKER, equ: aurati, ex antiqua ejuſdem nominis ſtirpe (de Caſterne in agro Staff:) oriundi; Qui per omnes Curiae Heraldicae, gradus aſcendens, in principalem Regem Armorum Anglicanum titulo Garter, merito tandem evectus eſt; ſerviente nuper civili incendio a Secretis Belli Regi Carolo primo:—Carolo deinde ſecundo, ad interioribus Conſiliis, Clericus fideliter inſerviit: Uxorem Agnetem Joh: Reeve de Bookern, S. Th: D. in com: Surr: filiam, juxta huic tumulatam duxit; e qua filiam unicam ſuſcepit, Barbaram, quam Johanni Clopton equ; aurato nuptui dedit; obiit xx. febr: Anno Domini, M,DC,LXXVI, aetatis LXV.*

* Sir Edward Walker was one of the numerous writers upon the ſubject of the grand Rebellion, he was author of a folio book, entitled Hiſtorical Diſcourſes, printed at London, in 1705.

On another againſt the north wall, are the arms of Clopton, viz.—*Quarterly 1ſt. and 4th. parted per pale, Or and Gules, a croſs pattee fitched, counterchanged.*—*2nd. and 3rd. paly of ſix Or and Azure, a lion rampant counterchanged of the field;*—and on an eſcutcheon of pretence, the arms of Walker.

M. S.

D. JOHANNIS CLOPTON equitis aurati; e Familia ſuis virtutibus inclyta, Quae tum in aliis Angliae Comitatibus inclaruit, tum Cloptonenſis Aedis in vicina villa per annos pluſquam quingentos incoluit, oriundi: Qui progenitorum feliciter aemulus, non ſibi ſed aliis vixit, nec unquam ullum munus moleſtum licet et ſumptuoſum, quo de Eccleſia, Patria, aut Amicis, bene mereri potuit, detracavit. Uxorem duxit, Barbaram D. Edwardi Walker, equitis aurati, Garterii Regis Armorum filiam unicam et haeridem; religione in Deum, pietate in Parentes, obſequio in Maritum, benevolentia in Omnes, vere eximiam, vere Chriſtianam; ex ea progenuit ſex filios, Edwardem, Johnannem, Hugonem, Johannem, Gulielmum, et Carolum; filiaſque quatuor, Agnetem, Barbaram, Elizabetham, et Jocoſam, quorum ſuperſtites reliquit, Edward: Hug: Guliel: Agnetem et Barbarum Animam Deo reddidit Illa, Dec. 10. 1692, *Aetatis* 47, *Ille, Apr.* 18, 1719. *Aetatis* 80.

Memoriam optimorum Parentum, in poſteriorum imitationem, hoc monumento, quod ſuis ſumptibus erexit, conſecravi curavit, Hugo Clopton de Medio Templo Londini Armi.

In

In an arch, between the north aile and the body of the church, is a tablet with the arms of Clopton, impaling, ſix coats, viz.—*1ſt. and 6th. Azure, a chevron between three kites heads, eraſed Or. 2nd. Sable, three bells Argent, a canton Ermine. 3rd. Sable, three trout fiſhes proper. 4th. Argent, a bend Azure, a mollet in ſiniſter chief, an annulet in baſe; 5th. Gules, a feſſe between ſix billets Argent.*

To the memorie of Thomas Clopton, of Clopton, in the county of Warr: Eſq. and Eglentine his wife, one of the daughters of John Keyte, of Ebrington, in the county of Gloceſter, Eſq. the ſaide Thomas departed this life the 22nd. day of Auguſt A. D. 1643; the ſaide Eglentine departed this life the 22nd day of November, A. D. 1642. They left iſſue, two Sonnes, John and Thomas Clopton.

On another, on the north wall, within a lozenge, are the following arms:—*Argent, three greyhounds currant, between eight croſſes patee fitched, Sable.*

Heere lyeth interred the body of Mrs. Amy Smith (who being about the age of 60 years, and a maide) departed this life at Nonſuch, in Surry, the 13th day of September, A. D. 1626: ſhe attended upon the Right Honorable Joyce, Ladie Carew, Counteſſe of Totneſs, as her waiting gentlewoman, the ſpace of 40 years together: being verie

deſirous

deſirous in her life time, that after her death, ſhe might be laid in this church of Stratford, where her Ladie the ſaide Counteſſe alſo herſelf intended to he buried; and accordinglie to fulfill her requeſt, and for her ſo long trew and faithful ſervice, the ſaide Right Honorable Counteſſe as an evident toaken of her affection towards her, not only cauſed her body to be brought from Nonſuch hither, and here honourably buried, but alſo did cauſe this monument and ſuperſcription to be erected in a grateful memorie of her, whom ſhe had found ſo good a ſervant.

Againſt one of the pillars of the nave;—

Arms:—Clopton impaling; *Four coats, quarterly, 1ſt. Argent, a feſſe charged with three bezants, Gules. 2nd. Azure, nine croſs croſſlets, between three roſes Argent. 3rd. Argent, a lion rampant Gules, collared Or. 4th. Argent a feſſe, vairy, Or and Gules, between three water bougets, Sable*;—for Milward.

H. S. I.

ELIZABETHA, Hugonis Clopton, Armig: Conjux dilectiſſima Thomae Milward de Stanton-Ward, in Agro Derbienſi Armig: Annaeque vxoris, filia et haeres ſuperſtes; preclaro genere oriunda, majorum dignitatem, tam venuſtate corporis, quam animae virtutibus, ornavit et auxit, obiit 2. die Julii, Anno Domini, 1721. Aetatis 42.

At

At the eaſt end of the church;—

Arms, *Gules, a chevron between three eſcallop ſhells, Argent.*

To the memory of Mr. Joſeph Woolmer, twice mayor, and for ten years ſenior Alderman of the Borough of Stratford; while converſant in Trade, his behaviour was with induſtry and integrity; as a Magiſtrate, he was a vigilant promoter of peace and regularity; as a chriſtian, fervent and conſtant in his devotions, public and private, pious towards God, generous and obliging to his relations, affable and courteous to his neighbours, charitable and friendly to the neceſſitous and diſtreſſed; with ſuch diſpoſitions, throughout a temperate life, and without more bodily infirmities than are uſually attendant on old age; he opened to himſelf through the merits of his Redeemer, a pleaſing proſpect of eternal bliſs: He died, September the 3rd 1747, in the 89th year of his age.

On a large monument fixed to the north wall;—

Nathaniel Maſon, of the Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon, Gent. cauſed this Monument to be erected in the year of our Lord, 1719, to the Memories of Mr. John Bartlet, late of Old Stratford, and Anne his only Daughter and heir, (late wife of the ſaid Mr. Maſon,) who with ten of the Children of the ſaid Mr. Maſon, by the ſaid Anne, lye interred under an altar tomb, in this Church-Yard,—on the north ſide of this wall;----Mr. John Bartlet, died the

the 26th of January, 1718, aged 72 years. Mrs. Anne Maſon, died the 11th of December, 1717, aged 39 years. John died the 27th of June, 1711, aged 12 years and 2 months. Nathaniel died the 9th of June, 1718, aged 17 years and 10 months. Daniel died the 27th of February, 1706, aged 11 months. Anne died the 13th of February, 1707, aged 9 months. Daniel the 2nd, died the 2nd of March, 1711, aged 2 years and 7 months. Mary died the 17th of December, 1711, aged 12 months. John the 2nd, died the 17th of March, 1711, aged 2 months. Anna Maria died the 4th of July, 1713, aged 15 days. James died the 1ſt of May, 1715, aged 5 months. John the 3rd, died the 23rd of December, 1718, aged 12 months.

On a large monument fixed to the eaſt wall of the ſouth aile, are the following arms and inſcription ;—

Arms:—*Argent, a feſſe Gules, between three rams heads eraſed, Azure,*—impaling ; *Argent, a pale bevile, between two bugles ſtringed, Sable.*

P. M. S.

Beneath lie interred, the bodies of Sir Reginald Foſter, Baronet, and Dame Mary his Wife, daughter of Edward Naſh, of Eaſt Greenwich, in the County of Kent, Eſq: Who had three Children: Reginald and Mary died young, and Jane the Wife of Franklin Miller, Eſq. who was only Child

Child of Sir Nicholas Miller, of Hyde-Hall, in the Pariſh of Sandon, in Herefordſhire, by Dame Mary his Wife, which Jane Miller, died February the 12th, 1731, aetatis near ſixty-two years. She was a very careful and frugal Wife, a tender and indulgent Mother, extenſive in her Charity, which reached to all the Widows, the Fatherleſs and the diſtreſſed; ſhe led a life of virtue, and went about in doing good, lived deſired, and died much lamented by all that knew her:—To the pious Memory of whom and her anceſters, this Monument was erected, by Jane (her only daughter) the Wife of William Norcliffe, of the inner temple, Eſquire.

On another large monument, fixed to the ſouth wall of the ſame aiſle; arms:—*Azure, between three ſeals heads eraſed, Argent, a ducal coronet, in feſſe point, Or.*

Beneath this monument lie the bodies of three ſons and a daughter, of Mr. Hugh Burman, of this Borough, and Heſter his Wife, viz. Heſter Burman, who died September the 27th 1751, aged 23. William Burman, who died April the 21ſt 1755, aged 25. Hurdis Burman, who died March the 8th 1756, aged 20. And Mr. Stephen Burman, the eldeſt ſon, Sugar Refiner, and Citizen of London, who died January the 8th 1757, aged 34. Here alſo lieth Mary Hurdis, a Neice of the above-mentioned Mr. Hugh Burman, and Heſter his Wife, Daughter of Mr. William Hurdis, and Lucy his Wife, late of this Borough

Borough, ſhe died March the 16th, 1756, aged 24; alſo Mary, another Daughter, of the ſaid Mr. Hugh Burman, and Heſter his Wife, ſhe died July the 10th, 1758, aged 33; alſo Mr. Hugh Burman, their Father, he died July the 23rd 1761, aged 64; and Mrs. Heſter Burman, Widow, of the ſaid Mr. Hugh Burman, died March the 30th, 1766, aged 69.

Againſt one of the ſouth pillars, are the arms of Woolmer:—

In Memory of Mr. Thomas Woolmer, Attorney at Law, Town Clerk of this Borough for 50 years: A perſon, honeſt, diligent, and well-ſkilled in Buſineſs, generous in his way of Living, courteous in his Converſation, (who ſpoke no evil of other People, nor gave others cauſe to ſpeak evil of him) a truſty Friend, a kind Relation, an uſeful Neighbour; and commendable in all parts of Life. He died December the 25th 1732, aged 77 years:—He left iſſue only one Daughter Catharine, married to William Makepeace, Eſq. Counſellor at Law; the ſaid Catharine, poſſeſſer of all her Father's virtues, died December the 8th 1760, aged 60 years.

On the contrary ſide of the ſame pillar, are the arms of Burman, as before;—

Near this Place, in the Family Vault, lie the remains of Lucy Daniel, Wife of the Rev. William Daniel, of Stretton-upon-Dunſmore, in this County, and Daughter of Hugh

Hugh and Heſter Burman, of Shottery, in this Pariſh, ſhe was born October the 28th, 1732, and died July the 31ſt, 1787.

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE FLOOR.

Mary the wife of John Burman, died December the 4th 1711, aged 63. Elizabeth daughter of the above, died November the 30th, 1711, aged 21.

———Wife of William Burman, ſenior, of Shottery, died July 23rd 1674. William Burman, ſenior, of Shottery, died October the 6th, 1717, aged 83.—Some others of the ſame family defaced.

William Burman, Gent. died July 1, 1742, aged 41.

Stephen Burman, Gent. died February 11, 1758, aged 62.

Lucy, wife of John Burman, daughter of Hugh Walford of Langley, Gent. died September 28, 1719, aged 59

Edmund Hathaway, died June 14, 1729, aged 57. Jane his wife, died December 12, 1729, aged 64. Alſo ſeveral others defaced.

Abigail wife of John Hathaway, Jun. of Luddington, died May 5, 1735, aged 29. Mary her daughter died an infant.

Urſula, wife of John Hathaway, died January 23, 1781, aged 50. John Hathaway, ſenior, died September 5, 1758, aged 73. John Hathaway, of Luddington, died June 23, 1775, aged 67.

Anne, wife of George Croſſe, died January 22, 1770, aged 55.

Priſcilla Cooper, buried October the 2nd, 1728.

Daniel Hurdis, Alderman, died April 21, 1729, aged

67. Mary his wife, died September 7, 1727, aged 75.

Thomas Careleſs, died March 8, 1744, aged 78. Diana his wife, died April 5, 1757. Thomas their ſon, died February 16, 1761, aged 47.

Edward Eccles, late of Adlington, Cheſhire, died April 2, 1703.

Timothy Troy, Gent. died October 19, 1733.

Mr. Joſeph Woolmer the elder, the firſt Mayor of Stratford, died 1710, aged 85.

John Woolmer, Junior, died November 30, 1706.

John Bromley, died March 18, 1717, aged 70. Thomas and John Lord, ſons to Richard and Suſan. Lord, died young.

Anne, wife of John Bromley, died December, 1728, aged 49.

Mr. William Eaves, Alderman, died June 12, 1768, aged 77. Sarah his wife (Date gone.)

Margaret, wife of Francis Midford, Gent. only daughter of James Manwaring, of Kenningham, in the county of Cheſter, Eſq. died in the 42nd year of her age.

Mrs Sarah Wood, wife of Adam Wood, Eſq. of London, died October 4, 1795, aged 61. Francis Wood, ſon of Lieut. Col. Wood, died March 30, 1795, aged 10 weeks

Arms – Within a lozenge; *on a canton, a ducal coronet.*

Mrs. Jane Lucas, daughter of the Hon. Col. Lucas, by his wife Eſther, daughter of Sir Ralph Delaval, Knight, died September 4, 1741, aged 36.

Samuel Tiſſel died November 15, 1754, aged 61. Sarah his wife, died December 10, 1752, aged 57,

Arms.

Arms.—*Between a chevronel, three ſtags heads caboſhed.*

Captain Griffiths White, ſon of Roger White, Eſq. of Henland, in the county of Pembroke, died October 9, 1726, aged 66.

Edward Cook, died March 22, 1733, aged 28.

George Pitt, Gent. died May 29, 1775, aged 50.

Elizabeth, wife of Henry Turbitt, Mercer, daughter of John Hathaway of Luddington, died July 17, 1752, aged 46. Ann their daughter, died April 9, 1749, aged 17. Henry their ſon, died an infant, January 28, 1738. Henry Turbitt, died March 25, 1756, aged 53.

Thomas Vicars, died December 16, 1736, aged 48.

Ann, wife of Nicholas Jarrett, died Auguſt 12, 1789, aged 75.

Thomas Brigham, Gent. died November 26, 1778, aged 74.

Mr. John Magers, Ironmonger, died December 14, 1719, aged 32. Ann his wife, daughter of H. Walford, of Langley, died Auguſt 5, 1730, aged 54.

Mrs. Bridget Jarvis, died December 17, 1739, aged 51. Mr. Samuel Jarvis, Mercer, died Auguſt 5, 1778, aged 61. Mary his daughter, died an infant, January 30, 1754. Mary his widow, died January 3, 1711, aged 59.

Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Thomas Bott, died September 27, 1733, aged 39,

George Corfield, died July 9, 1735, aged 38.

John Lenton, died March 5, 1738, aged 67. Ann his wife, died September 1, 1741, aged 59.

Ann, wife of John Ferrers, of Chadwick, died February 17, 1747, aged 29.

Mary, wife of Henry Turbitt, died September 22, 1723, aged 59. Henry Turbitt, died May 6, 1740, aged 75.

John Brittain, of Clifford, Gent. died November 4, 1723, aged 38.

Joyce, wife of Samuel Mallory, died June 7, 1751, aged 35. Mary, wife of Samuel Mallory, died December, 4, 1755, aged 36.

Samuel Tome, died July 3, 1746, aged 52. Elizabeth his wife, died June 15, 1761, aged 68.

Mrs. Bridget Herne, died May 26, 1775.

Ann Elford, died May 13, 1750.

Mary, wife of Richard Bartlett, died September 4, 1728, aged 30. Richard Bartlett, twice Mayor, and ſtanding Juſtice, died October 7, 1750, aged 67.

INSCRIPTIONS, &c. *in the* TRANSEPT.

At the north end of the tranſept, is a large free-ſtone monument, with the following inſcription;—

On the north ſide of this wall, lie the bodies of Thomas Harbert, Carver, and Elizabeth his wife, ſhe died, June the 3rd 1736, aged 76:—He, June the 6th, 1738, aged 80.

Alſo at the north end, on ſeperate monuments, are the following:—

In memory of Mr. John Auſtin, of this Borough, Stone Carver, who died Auguſt 25th 1752, aged 40.

To

To the memory of Anne, the wife of Thomas Woolmer, an Attorney of this Borough, who departed this life, October the 3rd, 1704.

Mirrour of courtiſie adieu!
'Till the laſt trump, thy life renew,
Belov'd of all,---of all bewail'd,---
O that our tears might thee have bail'd.

With her, alſo near this place, lye interred the bodies of Elizabeth, Theodoſia, and Mary, three of her Daughters.

Near to this place, lieth the body of Elizabeth, the wife of Joſeph Woolmer, who departed this life, the 30th day of November, A, D. 1690.---Alſo near this place, lieth the body of Stephen, the ſon of Joſeph Woolmer, who departed this life, the 18th day of September, A. D. 1689.

In memory of Thomas Taylor, who was once Bailiff, and once Mayor, and many years a ſtanding Juſtice of this Borough, who died in 1679, aged 76. Alſo Ann his wife died 1676.

In memory of Mr. Thomas Taylor, an Alderman of this Borough, who died May the 19th, 1731, aged 63 years. Alſo Ann his wife, who died Auguſt the 1ſt, 1729, aged 63.

To the memory of Mr. Thomas Halford, who died Auguſt the 23rd, 1796, aged 56. Elizabeth Newcomb, died January the 31ſt, 1797, aged 90.

At the ſouth end, within an arch in the wall, is the following curious Inſcription, almoſt obliterated,—the firſt ſentence is an Hebrew verſe from Job,—the next is Greek, and is merely a reference to the deceaſed, then follows ;—

Hic nutritus erat, natus, nunc hic jacet Hillus,
Hicque magiſtratus fama ter munere functus;
Cumque bonos annos vixiſſet ſeptuaginta,
Ad terram corpus, ſed mens migravit ad aſtra,

Here born, here lived, here died, and buried here,
Lyeth Richarde Hill, thrice Bailiff of this Borough,
Two matrones of good fame, he married in Godes fear,
And now releaſt in joi, he reſts from worldlie ſorrow.

Here lyeth entomb'd the corps of Richarde Hill,
A woollen draper, being in his time,
Whoſe virtues live, whoſe fame doth floriſh ſtill,
Tho' he diſſolved be to duſt and ſlime.—
A mirror he, and patterne mai be made,
For ſuch as ſhall ſucceade him in that trade;
He did no uſe to ſweare, to gloſſe, either faigne,
His brother to defraud, in bargaining:
He did not ſtrive to get exceſſive gaine
In anie cloth, or other kind of thing.—
His ſervant S. I. this truth can teſtifie,
A witneſs, that beheld it with mine eie.

On

On a monument againſt the weſt wall:—

Arms,—*Azure, on a baſe embattled Argent, charged with a Fleur-de-lis Gules; an Eagle diſplayed of the 2nd,*—for Maſon;—impaling;—*Or, a chevron parted per pale, Azure and Gules, charged with three roſes of the firſt;*—for Rowney.

Nathaniel Maſon, Generoſus, Dei cultor, hominum amator, fidei datae obſervantiſſimus, in negotiis agendis, ſolers acuratus, ſine fuco probus; bis matrimonium contraxit, nunquam violavit, uxoribus placens amicus, liberis monitor fidelis, ſervis exactor minime ſeverus; valens hilariter vixit, non improvide; morbo affectus, aequo animo tulit, et Chriſto fidens, impavidus obiit:—12° *Februarii* 1734, *aetatis* 63.

On another near it, are the ſame arms;—

Juxta reliquias chariſſimi conjugis, Elizabetha Maſon, Arthuri Rowney, de Darlingſcote Generoſi, filia et haeres;—*Plorate quotquot eſtis! o bo viduae, et languenti indigentiae turbae, patronam leniter miſericordem; plorate juvenes privigni! novercam indulgentiſſimam matriſaemulam; plorate chriſtiani fideles! ſimpliciter probam, eximie piam; inopina morte correpta, Obiit* 20° *die Februarii, A D.* 1738, *aetat.* 50; *Hujuſce ſcilicet vitae commercio celeriter evaſit, felicius in aeternum victura.*

On another, with the arms of Maſon.

Daniel Maſon, de hoc Burgo Generoſus, (ex ſtirpe ejuſdem no-

nominis in agro Wigornienſi, oriundus) et Franciſca uxor ejus, e qua complures ſuſcepit natos, quorum Thomam et Nathanielem, tantum ſuperſtites reliquit: In memoriam optimorum parentum, Thomas Maſon eorum nepos et filius Nathanielis natu maximus, hoc marmor pie poſuit; Ille obiit ſeptimo die Junii 1689, *aetatis* 50, *Illa autum ſeptimo die Auguſtii* 1723, *aetatis* 81. *Omne capax urna movet nomen.*

On another, with the ſame arms.

Subtus jacet, in expectatione diei ſupremi, Thomas Maſon, de interiori Templo, Londini, Armiger; Barreſterius ad Legem, et unus Juſticiorum ad pacem, pro hoc comitatu, Nathanielis Maſon Genereſi, et Annae uxoris ejus filius; obiit coelebs, die 1° *Februarii A. D.* 1748, *aetatis ſuae* 47; *Qualis erat, dies poſtremus indicabit.*

On another.

This is erected to the memory of Mr. William Hiccox, eldeſt ſon of Mr. Thomas Hiccox, who was twice Mayor of this Borough, and a ſtanding Juſtice twenty years: the the ſaid Mr. William Hiccox, was a capital Burgeſs of this Borough, but died a ſingle man the 25th of Auguſt, in the 39th year of his age, and in the year of our Lord 1707:---his body, with the reſt of the family that are deceaſed, lie interred near this place.

Alſo near this place, lieth the body of Mr. Thomas Hiccox, ſecond ſon of Mr. Thomas Hiccox, aforefaid, who was Mayor of this Borough, and died in his Mayoralty, the 15th day of June, 1715, aetatis ſuae 43, who cauſed this monument to be erected.

On

On others.

Non ita procul, jacent exuviae Gulielmi Hiccox, nuper de Burgo Stratfordienſi Generoſi, qui animo ſanior quam corpore, omnibus facilis, jucundus, et utilis vixit; nulli non flebilis occidit, 16 *die Cal: Julii A. D.* 1732, *aetatis* 33.

Arms,—*Quarterly, 1ſt. and 4th. Vert, a garb Or. 2nd. and 3rd. Or.*

To the memory of Edward Hiccox, Gent. who died March the 23rd, 1774, aged 66 :---He was pious, charitable, and of the ſtricteſt integrity.

On the oppoſite wall:

Arms: *Azure, a bend, between three tigers heads, Or;* impaling;—*Argent, between three ſexfoils ſlipped, Vert, a feſſe charged with three acorns, Or.*

To the memory of William Hunt, Eſq. who died the 20th of September, 1783, aged 52:---Alſo Catharine his daughter, who died an infant in the year 1766.

Arms:—*Argent, a feſſe ſable, charged with a martlet Or, three mollets in chief of the 2nd.*

To the memory of Mr. Samuel Walford, late Mayor of this Borough, ſon of Mr. Thomas Walford, of Binton, and Rebecca his wife, who after many years employed in trade

trade, retired to prepare for eternity, and died the 24th day of February, 1746, aged 51.

Near this place, lieth the body of Mary the daughter of Richard Tyler, Gent. and Urſula his wife, who died September 12, 1716, aged 25:---Alſo Francis their daughter, died July the 6th, 1717, aged 25.

ON THE FLOOR, *in the* TRANSEPT.

Mr. Thomas Hiccox, died June 15, 1715, aged 43. Elizabeth his wife, died September 5, 1694, aged 27.

Arms:---*On a feſſe, between three lions paſſant, three creſcents.*

Richard Tyler, Gent. died October 20, 1719, aged 58. Urſula his wife, died March 24, 1743, aged 75. Ann their daughter, died February 22, 1749, aged 61.

Samuel Tyler, of Shottery, Gent. died May 14, 1693, aged 69, Ann his wife, died March 13, 1694.

Sarah, wife of Samuel Tyler, Eſq. died May 14, 1756, aged 67.

Samuel Tyler, Eſq. died June 6, 1763, aged 70. Katharine his ſiſter, died March 17, 1762, aged 66. Dorothy, another ſiſter, died Auguſt 8, 1778. Mrs. Decima Naſon, died October 14, 1781,

Thomas Challoner, Gent. died July 18, 1697, aged 32. William Challoner, died May 13, 1719, aged 49.

Sarah, wife of Thomas Peyton, mercer, died July 4, 1714, aged 23. Sarah their daughter, died April 14, 1717, aged 5. Thomas Peyton, died February 7, aged 51.

William

William Smith, ironmonger, died May 21, 1716, aged 59. Sarah his wife, died April 25, 1718, aged 58. Martha, wife of Abel Peyton, ironmonger, died December 1, 1730, aged 35. Alſo ſeven children who died young.

Joſeph Smith, ironmonger, died Oct. 18, 1736, aged 81.

Nicholas Vangable, Gent died April 11, 7174, aged 37.

Ann daughter of Joſeph and Elizabeth Hunt, died May 30, 1700, aged 17.

Mrs. Rebecca Willis, died February 22, 1752, aged 64.

William Hunt, draper, died June 1, 1696, aged 67. William Hunt his grandſon, died October, 19, 1696, aged 4. Mary, wife of William Hunt, died Auguſt 27, 1681.

Mr. Richard Good, Alderman, died March 31, 1741, aged 60. Mary his widow, died April 27, 1755, aged 68.

Mr. Saul Spilſbury Good, died January 28, 1767, aged 46.

Mary widow of Henry Harbidge, died November 2, 1672.

Mr. Robert Farwom, died March 25, 1737, aged 89.

Mr. Oliver Fleetwood, died July 7, 1713, aged 56. Suſannah his wife, died March 2, 1737, aged 68.

Mr. John Cookes, twice Mayor died May 5, 1737, aged 60. Hannah his wife, died October 9. 1760, aged 89.

Hannah, wife of Thomas Lilly, died February 4, 1748, aged 26.

Ann, wife of Mr. Benjamin Haynes, July 9, 1765, aged 62. Mr. Benjamin Haynes, Alderman, died April 25, 1768, aged 72.

Mr. Edward Elderton, twice Mayor, died September 13, 1712, aged 14. Suſannah his wife, died October 30, 1717, aged 68. Mr. Robert Elderton, died November 25, 1732, aged 45.

Mr.

Mr. Foulk Sellar, twice Mayor, and ſtanding Juſtice, died March 5, 1719, aged 77.

Mr. Robert Davis, died March 11, 1706, aged 60.

Catharine Willis, died October 28, 1755, aged 66. Mrs. Sarah Allen, died July 5, 1767, aged 74.

Ann, wife of Mr. Samuel Weſt, died January 11, 1718, aged 44. John Weſt, Gent. died Nov. 1, 1759, aged 54.

Mr. Samuel Weſt, Alderman, died October 31, 1719, aged 48.

Mr. Aſhwin of Bradforton died Oct. 20, 1710, aged 27.

Ann Palmer of Radway, died Oct. 12, 1727, aged 78.

Elizabeth daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Birch, died February 11, 1730, aged 11. Elizabeth Birch, widow, died December 3, 1750, aged 56.

Mrs. Francis Bott, died March 21, 1777, aged 60.

Mr. John Halford, twice Mayor, died November 2, 1733. aged 54. Bridget, wife of John Halford, died January 7, 1743, aged 33. Joſhua their ſon, died July 14, 1748, aged 9. Frances the ſecond wife, died November 21, 1756.

Mr. Henry Halford, died June 16, 1740, aged 36.

Mr. John Halford, died February 20, 1770, aged 64.

Mary, wife of John Halford, died May 5, 1712, aged 37. Mary, wife of Richard Hitchcock, daughter of the above Mary Halford, died June 16, 1734, aged 25.

Mary, wife of Joſhua Smith, died December 37, 1718, aged 65. Ann his wife, died in 1687.

Mr. Samuel Watſon, died June 23, 1739, aged 28.

Mr. Thomas Newcomb, died June 18, 1746, aged 37.

Mr. Thomas Newcomb, Alderman, died Auguſt 2, —— aged 58. Elizabeth his wife, died Auguſt 4, 1747, aged

38

38. Martha, wife of Mr. Richard Newcomb, died January 2, 1741, aged 70.

Richard Hitchcocks, once Mayor, died January 4, 1758, aged 54.

John Hitchcocks, once Mayor, died May 27, 1772, aged 38.

Ann, daughter of Thomas Green, died January 23, 1653, Sarah, wife of Thomas Green, died April 20, 1655. Thomas Green, died March 10, 1699, aged 75. Elizabeth his daughter, died June 25, 1720, aged 62.

Mr. Anthony Wake died November 18, 1768, aged 71. Others of the ſame name obliterated.

Mr. Stephen Naſon, died Auguſt 9, 1728, aged 60.

Thomas Turner, died January 14, 1787, aged 47.

Sarah, daughter of Mr. William Townſend, of Tiddington, died March 14, 1670.

Mary Townſend of Tiddington, died December 19, 1669

Rebecka, wife of Mr. Thomas Hiccox. Rebecka, daughter of the above, died Auguſt 20, 1728.

E Hiccox, died March 23, 1774.

Thomas Hiccox, twice Mayor and ſtanding Juſtice twenty years, died March 14, 1705, aged 71.

Richard Hunt died September 12, 1682, aged 76. Abigail his wife, died June 27, 1703. Joſeph their ſon, died June 14, 1720, aged 75.

Elizabeth, wife of John Letherland, died November 2, 1715, aged 42. Martha, daughter of Joſeph Hunt, died May 15, 1682, aged 5 years.

Richard, ſon of Mr. John Hunt, died March 30, 1681, Alſo ſeven other children of Mr. John Hunt.

Mr. Foulk Sellar, twice Mayor, and ſtanding Juſtice, died March 5, 1719, aged 77.

Mr. Robert Davis, died March 11, 1706, aged 60.

Catharine Willis, died October 28, 1755, aged 66. Mrs. Sarah Allen, died July 5, 1767, aged 74.

Ann, wife of Mr. Samuel Weſt, died January 11, 1718, aged 44. John Weſt, Gent. died Nov. 1, 1759, aged 54.

Mr. Samuel Weſt, Alderman, died October 31, 1719, aged 48.

Mr. Aſhwin of Bradforton died Oct. 20, 1710, aged 27.

Ann Palmer of Radway, died Oct. 12, 1727, aged 78.

Elizabeth daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Birch, died February 11, 1730, aged 11. Elizabeth Birch, widow, died December 3, 1750, aged 56.

Mrs. Francis Bott, died March 21, 1777, aged 60.

Mr. John Halford, twice Mayor, died November 2, 1733. aged 54. Bridget, wife of John Halford, died January 7, 1743, aged 33. Joſhua their ſon, died July 14, 1748, aged 9. Frances the ſecond wife, died November 21, 1756.

Mr. Henry Halford, died June 16, 1740, aged 36.

Mr. John Halford, died February 20, 1770, aged 64.

Mary, wife of John Halford, died May 5, 1712, aged 37. Mary, wife of Richard Hitchcock, daughter of the above Mary Halford, died June 16, 1734, aged 25.

Mary, wife of Joſhua Smith, died December 37, 1718, aged 65. Ann his wife, died in 1687.

Mr. Samuel Watſon, died June 23, 1739, aged 28.

Mr. Thomas Newcomb, died June 18, 1746, aged 37.

Mr. Thomas Newcomb, Alderman, died Auguſt 2, —— aged 58. Elizabeth his wife, died Auguſt 4, 1747, aged

38. Martha, wife of Mr. Richard Newcomb, died January 2, 1741, aged 70.

Richard Hitchcocks, once Mayor, died January 4, 1758, aged 54.

John Hitchcocks, once Mayor, died May 27, 1772, aged 38.

Ann, daughter of Thomas Green, died January 23, 1653, Sarah, wife of Thomas Green, died April 20, 1655. Thomas Green, died March 10, 1699, aged 75. Elizabeth his daughter, died June 25, 1720, aged 62.

Mr. Anthony Wake died November 18, 1768, aged 71. Others of the ſame name obliterated.

Mr. Stephen Naſon, died Auguſt 9, 1728, aged 60.

Thomas Turner, died January 14, 1787, aged 47.

Sarah, daughter of Mr. William Townſend, of Tiddington, died March 14, 1670.

Mary Townſend of Tiddington, died December 19, 1669

Rebecka, wife of Mr. Thomas Hiccox. Rebecka, daughter of the above, died Auguſt 20, 1728.

E Hiccox, died March 23, 1774.

Thomas Hiccox, twice Mayor and ſtanding Juſtice twenty years, died March 14, 1705, aged 71.

Richard Hunt died September 12, 1682, aged 76. Abigail his wife, died June 27, 1703. Joſeph their ſon, died June 14, 1720, aged 75.

Elizabeth, wife of John Letherland, died November 2, 1715, aged 42. Martha, daughter of Joſeph Hunt, died May 15, 1682, aged 5 years.

Richard, ſon of Mr. John Hunt, died March 30, 1681, Alſo ſeven other children of Mr. John Hunt.

John Hunt, aged 24. Abigail Hunt, aged 31

Thomas Horne, died —— 27, 1685, aged 64. Sufannah his wife, died October 27, 1679. aged 46. Samuel their ſon, died December 25, 1709.

Alice, wife of John Smith, mercer, died Auguſt 26, 1737, aged 31.

Ann, wife of Mr. William Beauchamp, died June 22, 1724, aged 72. Elizabeth their daughter, died July 15, 1737, aged 25.

Ann, daughter of Joſeph Hathaway, died December 25, 1751, aged 16.

Mr. William Beauchamp, Mercer, died January 13, 1715, aged 29. Theodoſia his daughter, died young.

Joſeph Hathaway, died June 5, 1737, aged 28.

Beauchamp, ſon of Joſeph Hathaway, died June 20, 1737, aged 4.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS, &c. IN THE CHANCEL.

THE firſt of theſe in point of antiquity, is an altar tomb, raiſed about three feet and a half from the pavement, formed of alabaſter, and curiouſly caſt to repreſent ſome of the moſt ſtriking paſſages in the new teſtament; the brazen portraiture and inſcription, with which

which it was originally adorned, have been long ſince deſtroyed, yet Leland and Sir William Dugdale, both affirm it to have been erected to the memory of Dr. Balſall, warden of the College, who re-edified this part of the church. In confirmation of this opinion, the initials of his name, together with the letters I. H. U. are ſtill diſcernable in many parts of the tomb.

Dr. Balſall died in the year 1491.

The next monument is erected to the memory of John Combe, Eſq. the gentleman ſo much celebrated by the biographers of SHAKSPEARE, for the humorous epitaph which that poet is ſaid to have compoſed for him, during his life time;---a ſtory too well known, and too often recited, to need a repetition in this place. This monument bears a great reſemblance to that before deſcribed for the earl of Totneſs, though greatly inferior in workmanſhip. Beneath an ornamented arch, flanked with corinthian columns, lies the effigy habited in a long gown, and originally painted to reſemble life:--This effigy, together with the

buſt in the monument of SHAKSPEARE, has within theſe few years, at the direction of Mr. Malone, undergone an alteration, the whole being painted white; whether judiciouſly or not, we leave to the admirers of antiquity to determine.

Arms:—*Ermine, three lions paſſant guardant in pale, Gules.* Creſt,—*A dexter arm graſping the broken end of a tilting ſtaff.*

Here lyeth interred the body of John Combe, Eſquire, who departing this life, the 10th day of July, A. D. 1614, bequeathed by his laſt will and teſtament, to pious charitable uſes, theſe ſummes enſuing, annually to be paid for ever; viz, xx*s.* for two ſermons to be preach'd in this church. vi*l.* iii*s.* iv*d*, to buy ten gownes for ten poore people within the Borough of Stratford; and 100*£*. to be lent to fifteen poore tradeſmen of the ſame Borough, from three years to three years, changing the parties every third year, at the rate of 5o*s.* per annum; the which increaſe he appointed to be diſtributed towards the reliefe of the almes-poore there.---More he gave to the poore of Stratford, xx*l.*

Virtus poſt funera vivit.

We come now to notice the humble monument, deſigned to perpetuate the memory of

of perhaps the greateſt poet that ever exiſted in any age or country, WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE, the immortal father of the Britiſh drama:—To launch out into an enumeration of his merits, or encomiums in his praiſe, would be in this place equally ſuperfluous and abſurd; they are univerſally acknowledged, and univerſally admired.---- The monument of this great man, is fixed in the north wall of the chancel, being elevated about ſix feet from the floor; from the ſimilitude it bears to the monument laſt noticed, and that of the earl of Totneſs, one would be led to imagine they were the works of one and the ſame artiſt; like them it conſiſts of an ornamented arch, between two corinthian columns, ſupporting an entablature, decorated with a death's head and other emblems of mortality:—within this arch or niche is placed a buſt of the bard, who is repreſented in a thoughtful attitude, both hands being reclined upon a cuſhion; in the right is placed a pen, the left ſupports a ſcroll; even in this ſculpture, rude as it is, the attentive ſpectator

may yet diſcover evident traces of that energy and fire, which once animated and inſpired the *immortal* SHAKSPEARE; and as it appears by the ſtile of the inſcriptions, that it was erected very quickly, if not immediately after his deceaſe, it is probable that it may convey, in ſome degree, a likeneſs of the man.—The forehead is repreſented as full and lofty, and the crown of the head bald; the noſe inclined to the aquiline; the colour of the eyes, previous to the late alteration, was a light hazle; that of the hair and beard, which is ſmall and pointed, an auburn or light brown: at firſt glance there ſeems to be a diſproportion in the length of the upper lip, yet upon attentive inſpection, it will be ſeen to be occaſioned by the manner in which the muſtachios are repreſented, and if viewed in profile, the features will appear perfectly regular, and the whole form a handſome and very expreſſive countenance. The dreſs conſiſted of a ſcarlet doublet, according to the faſhion of the time, over which was a looſe black gown, without ſleeves.—In the year 1757, this monu-

monument was repaired by the profit arising from a benefit play given for that purpose, by the manager of a company of comedians, then performing in the town, when the bust was newly painted, great care being taken to preserve as much as possible the original colour of the hair, dress, &c. which was again altered in the year 1793, and the whole painted white (as before observed).

The armorial bearings appropriate to the family of SHAKSPEARE, are,—*Or, a bend Sable, charged with a spear of the first, the point upwards.*—The Crest, *A falcon displayed proper, grasping in its talons a spear, Or.*

INSCRIPTIONS.

Judicio Pylium, genio Socratem, arte Maronem,
Terra tegit, populus moeret, olympus habet,

Stay passenger why goest thou by so fast,
Read if thou can'st, whom envious death hath plast†
Within this monument;---SHAKSPEARE, with whom
Quick nature dide†;---whose name doth deck this tombe,---
Far more then cost; sieh† all that he hath writt,
Leaves living art, but page to serve his witt ---

Obiit, A. D. 1616.—*Aetatis* 53, *die* 23° *Aprilis.*

† Copied literally from the monument.

On

On a flat ſtone, which immediately covers the grave, the following ſingular inſcription occurs, ſaid to have been written by himſelf ;—

GOOD FREND FOR JESVS SAKE FORBEARE,
TO DIGG THE DVST INCLOASED HEARE ;
BLESE BE THE MAN THAT SPARES THES STONES,
AND CVRST BE HE THAT MOVES MY BONES.

On another flat ſtone.

Here lyeth interred the body of Anne, wife of Mr. WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE, who departed this life, the 6th day of Auguſt, 1628, being of the age of 67 years :—

Ubera tu mater, tu lac vitamque dediſti,
Vae mihi pro tanto munere Saxa dabo !
Quam mallem amoveat lapidem bonus Angelus orem
Exuat ut Chriſti Corpus imago tua ;
Sed nil vota valent, venias cito Chriſte reſurget,
Clauſa jacet tumulo mater, et aſtra petet†.

On another.

Arms.—*Three leopards heads eraſed.*—impaling Shakſpeare.

Here lyeth the body of John Hall, gent. he marr : Suſanna, daughter and coheir of WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE, gent. he deceaſed November 25, Anno 1635, aged 60 years.

† This epitaph and the two following, are ſaid to have been written by Mrs. Hall, the poet's eldeſt daughter.

Hallius

Hallius hic ſitus eſt medica celeberimus arte,
Epectans regni gaudia laeta Dei;
Dignus erat meritis qui Neſtora vinceret annis,
In terris omnes, ſed rapit aequa dies;
Ne tumulo, quid deſit adeſt fidiſſima conjux,
Et vitae comitem nunc quoque mortis habet.

On others.

Arms,—*Parted per pale baron and femme. 1ſt quarterly. 1ſt and 4th. a chevron between three eagles heads eraſed. 2nd and 3rd. a buck's head caboſhed, ſurmounted by a croſs patee, in the mouth an arrow. 2nd,* Hall—quartering Shakſpeare.

Here reſteth the body of Thomas Naſhe, Eſquier, he married Elizabeth the daughter of John Hall, gent. he died April 4, Anno 1647, aged 53.

Fata manent omnes, hunc non virtute carentem
Ut neque divitiis, abſtulit aſtra dies;---
Abſtulit; at referet lux ultima; ſiſte viator,
Si peritura paras, per mala parta peris.

Arms;---On a Lozenge,---Hall, impaling, Shakſpeare.

Here lyeth the body of Suſanna, wife of John Hall, gent. ſhe deceaſed the 2nd day of July, anno 1649, aged 66.

(The remainder of this inſcription being obliterated, is here ſupplied from Dugdale)

Witty above her ſexe, but that's not all,
Wiſe to ſalvation was good Miſtriſs Hall;

Some-

Something of SHAKSPEARE was in that, but this---
Wholy of him with whom ſhe's now in bliſſe,

Then paſſenger haſt ne'er a teare,
To weepe for her that wept with all;
That wept, yet ſet herſelf to chere
Them up with comforts cordiall.

Her love ſhall live, her mercy ſpread,
When thou haſt ne'er a teare to ſhed.

Againſt the north wall is a handſome monument, with buſts.

Arms,—*1ſt and 6th.* Combe as before, *2nd Azure, three croſs-croſſlets Argent, 3rd. Gules, a chief wavy. 4th. Argent, a chevron between three trefoils ſlipped, Sable. 5th. Argent, a feſſe between three lozenges, Gules.*

To the memory of Judith, the daughter of William Combe, Eſq of Old Stratford; who, (as the inſcription ſets forth,) was to have been married to Richard Combe, Eſq. of Hampſtead, in the county to Hertford, in whoſe arms ſhe expired on the 17th day of Auguſt, 1649.

On the flat ſtone beneath are the following lines.

Interr'd beneath this marble, lies at reſt,
Untimely pluck'd from her beloved's breaſt,
Deſires *nil ultra*, nature's quinteſſence,
In whom, perfections in their excellence
Their ſtations kept:—her life unſpotted was;
Her ſoul unſtained into heaven did paſs.

Could

Could birth or beauty, love or to be lov'd,
Of powers divine, this ſad decree have mov'd;
Might many thouſand ſighs, large ſtreams of tears
Brought forth with prayers, have added to her years,
Epithalamiums might have joy'd our ears.

Againſt the ſouth wall is another monument, with the arms of Combe.

Near unto this place, lye interred the bodies of William Combe, Eſq. of Old Stratford, who died the 30th day of January, 1666, and of Katharine his wife, daughter of Edward Boughton, of Hill Lawford, in the county of Warwick, Eſq. by whom he had iſſue one ſon, and nine daughters, of which only two had iſſue, viz. Mary who married with Francis Wagſtaff, of Teachbroke, in this county, Eſq. and Catherine who married with Sir Thomas Stevens, of Sodbury, in the county of Gloceſter, Knight: the ſon and all the other daughters deceaſed unmarried, whereof five lie here alſo interred, with one daughter of Sir Thomas Stevens, buried in the ſame grave with her grandmother.

On a monument againſt the ſouth wall.

Arms,—*Sable, three ſwords in pale barways, Argent, their hilts Or,* impaling *Azure, a chevron between three rams heads eraſed Argent, attired Or.*

Elizabetha Rawlins, filia et cohaeres, Thomae Bendiſh de Stowe-Markett, in com: Suffolciae Arm: ex Eliza Dudley filia Edw: Dudley, de Clapton, in com: Northamptoniae arm:— Laudes hic nullas vides lector, quia mincres ſunt omnes, magnam

magnam ſcilicet famam laedunt, violantque verborum pigmenta; pietatem, famam, candorem, indolem, praeclaros animi corporiſque dotes, ſuaviſſimoſque mores, nulla rhetorum aequabit oratio, obduci maluit velam maeſtiſſimus conjux quam ſugillari tantam virtutem impari penicillo.—Terrenas haſce reliquias depoſuit, circa annum aetatis triceſſimum, ad coelum evecta ſponſo fruitur ſempiterno Jeſu, ingens ſui in terris relinquens deſideriam;---Memoriae lectiſſimae conjugis dilectiſſimaeque, qualecunque hoc chariſſimi amoris pignus ſacravit lugens maritus,—— Tho: Rawlins Arm:

On a flat ſtone beneath.

Stay youth; whoſe lighter thoughts contentment ſeeke
In fading trifles of a well mix'd cheek;
And let thoſe looks, which when alive would try
To inflame thy boſom, now diſſolve thine eye;—
Stay graver age, whoſe ſerious breaſts do prize
The fair and younge, beneath the good and wiſe;
Lament her early fate, whoſe actions ſhew'd,
All virtues earth e'er had, or heaven beſtow'd;--
Stay lovely maids, and let your eyes diſpenſe
One tear, for beauty, youth and innocence;---
Stay ſober matrones, and let pity finde
Sighs for th' chaſte, th' conſtant and th' kinde;
But we'll no more load her lamented herſe,
Which now expects a trumpet not a verſe;
Whoſe ſound will find her ſhape ſo exact before
'Twill others change, but only her's reſtore.

Againſt the eaſt wall is a very elegant and beautifully finiſhed monument, by the celebrated

lebrated Ryſbrack, adorned with a well executed buſt, and a profile on a medallion.

Arms,—*Argent, a chevron between three dolphins naiant, Sable,* impaling, *Sable, a chevron Or, between three lions heads eraſed Argent, langued Gules.*

Near this place lies interred the body of James Kendal, Eſq. of Stratfo-d-upon-Avon, Warwickſhire; who departed this life October the 19th, 1751, aged 51: he was the ſon of James Kendal, Eſq. one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to King James the ſecond, Colonel in the guards, and member for ſeveral parliaments; but rather than vote for the repeal of the penal laws and teſt, reſigned his place and commiſſion: after the revolution, King William in regard to his merit, appointed him governor of Barbadoes, in which poſt and every part of his life, he preſerved ſuch honour and integrity, that he was reſpected and beloved by all degrees of men ---He died in the year 1708, and was buried in Weſtminſter Abbey, leaving this his only ſon James, inheritor of his virtues and fortune; who married Jane the 5th daughter of John Weſton, Eſq. late of Ockham, in the county of Surry, (who cauſed this monument to be erected to his memory,) by her he had two ſons and one daughter, James and Harriot both died infants; and James John who died at Paris, in the year 1750, and the 22nd of his age, is buried at Weſt Horſley, in Surry. The ſaid Jane Kendal departed this life, Auguſt the 31ſt, 1769, aged 72.

Againſt the ſouth wall, is a monument with a latin inſcription, erected to the memory of Mary the wife of

William Walford, alſo of the ſaid William Walford, who died Auguſt the 28th, 1746, aged 55.—Arms, *Argent on a feſſe Sable, a martlet Or. three mollets of the 2nd in chief.*

On another againſt the ſame wall, erected to the memory of John and Charles Meacham, ſons of John and Dinah Meacham, the former of whom died June the 1ſt, 1784, aged 19 years: the latter died in London, October the 19th, 1780, aged 14, and was buried in St. Martin's in the Fields. — Arms,—*Azure on a feſſe Or, between three lions heads eraſed Argent, langued Gules, three eſcallop ſhells of the field.* Impaling, *Argent, a chevron Sable, charged with a fleur-de-lis of the 1ſt.*

On another.—To the memory of Peter Judd, of Stratford, captain in his Majeſty's 24th regiment of foot, who died at St. Piere, in the Iſland of Martinico, on the 12th of June, 1795, aged 27. His death was occaſioned by a wound received at the head of a detachment of his own regiment in the Iſland of St. Lucia, in the Weſt Indies.

ON GRAVE STONES ON THE FLOOR.

Francis Watts, gent. of Ryhan Clifford, died September the 2nd 1691, aged 63.—Arms,—*On a chevron between three lions heads eraſed, five mullets,* impaling. [defaced]

Ann, wife of Francis Watts, of Ryan Clifford, died March the 29th, 1704, aged 67.—— Arms.—On a lozenge, *a lion rampant, between three croſſes patee fitched.*

Richard Watts, of Ryan Clifford, in the pariſh of Old Stratford, gent. died May 23, 1707, aged 64.

Thomas Cook, ſon of William Cook, gent. late Alderman of the Borough of Warwick, was born in Warwick, lived

lived many years citizen of London, and died in this place, June the 6th, 1718.

Ann, the wife of the Rev. divine Mr. Thomas Wilſon, once paſtor of this Church, was interred October 27, 1642.

William Combe, of Old Stratford, Eſq. died January the 30th, 1666, aged 80. Katharine his wife, died June the 21ſt, 1662, aged 55.

Major John Combe, Eſq. of Old Stratford, died September the 12, 1709, aged 58.

Frances, the wife of John, Combe Eſq. died November the 28th, 1713, aged 42. – Arms, Combe as before, impaling *two barrs, ſurmounted by a bend checqued.*

John Trap, A. M. vicar of this church, died July the 5th, 1684, aged 48.

Edward Dean, A, M. vicar of this church, and rector of Binton, in this county, died December 14, 1735, aged 60.

Edmund Rawlins, Eſq. only ſon of Thomas Rawlins, ſerjeant at law, died June the 24th, 1681, aged 21.

Edmund Rawlins, died Feb. 21, 1696. Mrs. Jane Rawlins, died October 31, 1718, aged 43.

Thomas Rawlins, ſerjeant at law, died September 16, 1699, aged 77.

Samuel Rawlins, gent. died October 20, 1699, aged 75. Alice his wife, died November 2, 1699, aged 65.

William Rawlins, once rector of Cornwell, in Oxfordſhire, died May the 3rd, 1705, aged 40.

Mrs. Bradley relict of Mr. Bradley, of Great Neſs, in the county of Salop, and daughter of Euſebe Dormer, Eſq. of Great Appleby, in the county of Derby, died Auguſt the 16th, 1735.

Mrs. Mary Woolmer, only daughter of Mr. Benjamin Woolmer, and Elizabeth his wife, died Auguſt the 12th, 1728, aged 33.

Mr. Benjamin Woolmer, citizen and fiſhmonger of London, died September the 25th, 1744, aged 85.

Sarah, wife of Joſeph Woolmer, gent. died November the 30th, 1732, aged 75.

John Ward, A. M born at Spratton, in Northamptonſhire, and vicar of this church for 19 years, died September the 4th, 1681, aged 52.

Sir Henry Spencer, Baronet, Chirurgeon, departed this life April the 6th, 1726, aged 43.

Mr. Joſeph Fiſher, gent. died December the 3rd, 1769, aged 85 --Ann Fiſher his wife, died Oct. 19, 1777, aged 94. Mrs. Ann Wenſhurſt, died Oct. 31, 1729, aged 62.

Mrs. Jane Weſtrop, widow, daughter of Sir Hugh Brawn, of Alſcot, in the county of Gloceſter, Knight, died November 28, 1675, aged 75.

Joſiah Simcox, vicar of this church, died Dec. 27, 1681.

Margaret, only daughter of John Webb, Eſq. of Sherborne, in this County, and wife of the Rev. James Davenport, D. D. vicar of this church, died the 25th day of June, 1796,— aged 36.

The reader will ſupply the following accidental omiſſion in page 43.

Creſt, to the earl of Totneſs' arms:—*A lion Sable.* Supporters, *Two antelopes Gules, attired Or.*—Motto, *Tutus ſub umbra Leonis.*

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

AS we have had frequent occaſion in the courſe of this little tract, to mention the family of the Stratfords, it may not, perhaps, be improper to ſubjoin an account of ſuch of them, who by any intereſting circumſtances in their lives, have rendered themſelves worthy the notice of the hiſtorian.

The eldeſt of whom we have any knowledge, is Robert de Stratford, living in the reign of King Edward, I. he is only recorded as being the father of two ſons, both of whom afterwards made a very conſpicuous figure, as well in the eccleſiaſtical as civil annals of their country.

John the elder brother, was educated at Merton College, Oxford, where he diligently applied himſelf to the ſtudy of the canon and civil laws, in both of which having made a great proficiency at a very early age, he took the degree of doctor of laws, and was promoted to the archdeaconry of Lincoln; his prudent behaviour in that juriſdiction, being noticed by Walter archbiſhop of Canterbury, he farther advanced him to be his principal official and dean of the arches; ſo great was his reputation for learning, (as learning was in thoſe days) that it quickly reached the ears of King Edward II. who having ſent for him to court, made him his ſecretary, and conſequently a member of the privy council:—

Upon the death of Reginald biſhop of Wincheſter, it happened that he was ambaſſador to the Pope, at Avignon,

who at the earneſt recommendation of the archbiſhop, conſented to nominate him to the vacant ſee, to which he was conſecrated, June 26, 1323, ſuch was the unbounded authority aſſumed by the Pope in thoſe times, that this was done without the conſent, or even the knowledge of King Edward, who had deſigned for a ſucceſſor to the dioceſe of Wincheſter, one Robert Baldock, his chancellor and greateſt favorite, a crafty and deſigning man, who being enraged at his diſappointment, eaſily prevailed upon the King, to commence a moſt ſevere and cruel proſecution againſt the unfortunate Stratford†; no ſooner had he returned and taken poſſeſſion of this newly acquired dignity, than his effects were ſeized upon and ſold, and the temporalities of his ſee detained to the King's uſe, who publiſhed an edict requiring him to appear at a certain time and place, to give an account of his conduct; not content with having deprived him of all his poſſeſſions, a proclamation was ſhortly after uttered, ſtrictly forbidding all perſons to receive him into their houſes, or even to ſupply him with the common neceſſaries of life:—Being ſecretly preſerved by his friends, for the ſpace of a whole year, and having endured the greateſt extremity of wretchedneſs, at length by the earneſt entreaty of the Pope, but more eſpecially through the interceſſion of his old friend and patron, the archbiſhop of Canterbury, he found means once more, to reconcile himſelf to his offended ſovereign, who (laying the whole blame of his proſecution upon Baldock) received him into ſtill greater favor than before, and afterwards employed him in many embaſſies, and other affairs of ſtate; nor did Stratford prove

† *An account at large of this proſecution is to be ſeen in Rymer's Foedera, Tom* 4. *page* 30.

ungrate-

ungrateful, for when during the troubles in the latter part of the reign of that unfortunate monarch, almoſt all his former friends and adherents forſook him, the biſhop of Wincheſter approved himſelf a true and faithful ſubject, conſtantly adhering to his unhappy maſter, inſomuch that the Queen and Mortimer, earl of March, (who were then in power) began to contrive means to deprive him of his life; being apprized of this, he was once more obliged to abſcond, and keep himſelf concealed for a conſiderable time, until at length, the Queen (well knowing his abilities, and that nothing could be laid to his charge) condeſcended to receive him into her protection, and gave him the office of treaſurer of the Exchequer (de Scaccario) in the 20th and laſt year of the reign of King Edward II.

Upon the acceſſion of king Edward the III. he became one of the greateſt favorites of that renowned prince, who made him his Chancellor* in the beginning of his reign; and upon the death of Simon Mepham, archbiſhop of Canterbury, he wrote to the pope, requeſting him to nominate Stratford as ſucceſſor to the vacant primacy, which he accordingly did, and the monks of Canterbury, to make a virtue of neceſſity, elected him alſo; he was therefore con-

* *He was conſtituted Lord Chancellor four ſeveral times, the firſt time, November* 28, 1329, *4th Edward III. two years after, viz.* 1331, *being engaged in other buſineſs, he delivered the great ſeal to his brother Robert, with the title of keeper; however he reſumed it in* 1335, *but held it not long; in* 1336, *he received it again and was ſucceeded by his brother Robert, October* 23, 1338;—*the laſt time the great ſeal was delivered to him as Chancellor and Keeper, was April* 28, 1341, *16th Edward III.*

ſecrated

ſecrated archbiſhop of Canterbury, December 1, 1333.--- Shortly after that pe iod, king Edward the III. laid claim to the crown of France, in oppoſition to Philip de Valois, and commenced the glorious war which afterwards added ſo great a luſtre to his reign; being about to croſs the ſeas with a great force to vindicate his claim, he entruſted the adminiſtration of affairs at home, during his abſence, to our archbiſhop, requiring him to raiſe and tranſmit ample ſupplies of money for carrying on the war; this Stratford readily undertook, as he perceived it would be in his power to collect very large ſums, with the full conſent and approbation of the people, whoſe minds were bent upon the expedition: nor was he miſtaken in his conjecture, for ample ſubſidies were immediately granted, and tranſmitted to Edward upon the Continent: theſe ſums, which were judged adequate to the expence of carrying on the war for the ſpace of two or three years, the king being at that time young, inexperienced, and eaſily impoſed upon, were very ſhortly expended, and freſh ſupplies demanded; Stratford being ſurpriſed at this, with the freedom of a faithful ſervant, took the liberty of expoſtulating by letter with Edward on his conduct, adviſing him to remove from him the officers, concerned in the diſpoſal of his treaſure, whom he ſuſpected of unfair practices. The king, not being ſatisfied with this anſwer, ſent to him a ſecond time, reminding him of his promiſe, and requiring an immediate remittance of money: Stratford finding it impoſſible to raiſe any conſiderable ſum ſo ſoon after a liberal contribution had been made, adviſed the king for the preſent, to accept the offers of the French, conclude an advantageous truce,

and

and return into England, where his preſence became abſolutely neceſſary. At this Edward either was, or pretended to be greatly diſpleaſed, but knowing that ſituated as he was, (his ſupplies from England being expended, and his credit with the uſurers nearly exhauſted) it was impoſſible for him to proſecute the war: he diſmiſſed his auxilliaries, informing them that the archbiſhop had betrayed him to the French, and treacherouſly detained the money that ſhould pay them in his own hands:---on the contrary he ſatisfied his creditors with the aſſurance, that Stratford would become ſurety for the money he had borrowed, having by this time collected an adequate ſum for that purpoſe.

The murmurs of theſe perſons, being thus either allayed or caſt upon the archbiſhop, it was farther reſolved that the king ſhould return ſuddenly to England, ſurpriſe Stratford and his colleagues, and commit them to priſon: to London he came privately by night, and attended by only a few choice followers, having ſeized Robert de Stratford, biſhop of Chicheſter, his chancellor, and the biſhop of Coventry his treaſurer, he committed them priſoners to the tower: the archbiſhop by mere chance was abſent, but being informed of what had happened to his aſſociates, he betook him to his ſee, and there patiently awaited the event; he had not long been at Canterbury, before a knight was diſpatched to him with a mandate from the king, requiring him inſtantly to refund a large ſum of money borrowed in his name, of certain foreign merchants, or croſs the ſeas and remain himſelf as a ſurety for the payment. Very ſhortly after arrived meſſengers from the duke of Brabant, requiring a conference with the archbiſhop, which when he refuſed them, they

they affixed a citation to the high croſs at Canterbury, demanding inſtant payment of another large ſum, lent alſo to king Edward in his name, or that he ſhould repair to Flanders in perſon, and aſſign proper reaſons for his refuſal.

The archbiſhop perceiving by this what a ſtorm was gathering around him, (that he was not only charged with a debt of many thouſand pounds more than it was in his power to pay, but with the commiſſion of a treaſon, that might deprive him of his life, and render his memory diſgraceful to poſterity) began to think it highly neceſſary to take ſome ſteps in his own defence; for that purpoſe he wrote to the king, endeavouring to clear himſelf of the crimes laid to his charge, and offering to abide his trial at the next meeting of parliament: being alſo informed that Edward had written many letters againſt him to the biſhop of London, the convent of Canterbury, and others, to the intent that they might be publiſhed; he alſo thought proper in a public manner to juſtify the integrity of his conduct, having convened an aſſembly in his cathedral, he aſcended the pulpit and made a very bold and ſpirited harrangue, taking for his text, *non pertimuit principem, et nemo potentia vincit illum*, Eccle. 48, 13; in which he ſtrenuouſly maintained his innocence, and the injuſtice of the accuſations againſt him, and even ventured toth reaten with excommunication, all who dared to encroach upon the liberties of the church.

At the meeting of Parliament held ſoon after, our archbiſhop was ſummoned to appear, upon ſafe conduct being granted him by the king, he accordingly came, attended by a numerous retinue of biſhops and clergy, who intereſted themſelves in his diſpute: being arrived at the door of the houſe, he was refuſed admittance until he had made anſwer

to

to certain crimes laid to his charge, and preferred againſt him in the court of the exchequer, having received a copy of theſe accuſations, he returned and was admitted to his ſeat in parliament: the next day, coming alſo to the houſe, he was a ſecond time denied entrance by the king's officers, whereupon turning himſelf to the people, who began to flock around him, 'the king,' ſaid he, 'has ſummoned me 'to this parliament, of which I am the principal member, 'yet being come, I am deprived of the rights of my church, 'and denied admittance.' Perceiving that entrance was ſtill refuſed him, he ſtood at the door graſping his croſier, and denouncing with a firm and reſolute voice, that he would not depart from thence until the king ſhould think proper to grant him his ſeat in parliament; whereupon ſome of the ſtanders by began to upbraid him with betraying the realm, to whom he replied, 'The curſe of Almighty God, of his 'bleſſed mother, of St. Thomas, and my own, be upon all 'thoſe who informed the king ſo, amen, amen.' Some noblemen happening to paſs by at this time, the archbiſhop requeſted them to intercede for him with the king, which they accordingly did, and he was once more admitted into the houſe, where he offered fully to clear himſelf of the crimes laid to his charge, in whatever manner they thought proper†. Upon this a ſelect committee of twelve noblemen

† *Upon this occaſion (a diſpute ariſing concerning the moſt proper method of conducting the trial) the Prelates and Nobility obtained a ſtatute of privilege, importing that no Peer of the realm, whether ſpiritual or temporal, ſhould be tried for any capital offence, but by his Peers aſſembled in Parliament, conſequently this of our archbiſhop is the firſt inſtance of that deſcription of trial.*

were

were appointed, to deliberate upon his defence, and delivered their opinion to the king at the commencement of the next ſeſſion of parliament: four prelates, of London, Hereford, Bath and Exeter; four earls, of Arundel, Saliſbury, Huntingdon and Suffolk; and four barons, viz. Henry Percy, Thomas Wake, Ralph Baſſat and Ralph Nevill.--- All this farce was acted but to deceive the people; a fault was committed, and Edward was willing the blame ſhould reſt any where but on himſelf. The affair never came to the hearing of theſe nobles, for the king of his own accord, condeſcended to pardon the archbiſhop, declaring him fully acquitted of the crimes laid to his charge, put a ſtop to the proceedings againſt him, and received him again into his favor.

Certain it is that ſome of our hiſtorians in this inſtance, loudly accuſe Stratford of receiving bribes from the French king, and of being influenced by the court of Rome, to act inimical to the intereſt of his ſovereign; yet if we reflect upon every circumſtance attending the diſpute, we do not heſitate to pronounce him altogether innocent, eſpecially when we conſider, that upon the breaking up of parliament and during the time that Edward was abſent, carrying on the war in France, our archbiſhop was again appointed chancellor, and entruſted with the adminiſtration of public affairs. It does not appear that he held the office of chancellor any conſiderable time, for being then advanced in years, he declined all public buſineſs, and ſpent the remainder of his life in quiet and retirement; having ſat archbiſhop of Canterbury upwards of fifteen years; he died at Magfield, in 1348, and was buried in his own cathedral in an alabaſter tomb, near the high altar.

Thus in the courſe of an eventful life, did this active and

and enterprizing metropolitan, experience many and ſudden viciſſitudes of good and bad fortune '*Vix enim reperias*,' (ſaith Godwin) '*inter omnes qui Cantuarienſi ſedi, vel ante eum vel poſt praefuerunt, qui omnem adhibens operam et diligentiam, ne qua offenderet; ſine aliqua ſua culpa plus offenſarum contraxerit, pluribuſve aerumnis et difficultatibus conflictatus ſit.*' In his diſpoſition he is ſaid to have been mild, and gentle, more inclined to pardon the guilty than to make uſe of any ſeverity; he was alſo very extenſive in his charities, it being his cuſtom three times in the day to diſtribute alms to thirteen paupers; in the morning he gave them each a penny, at noon proviſions, and at night to each a loaf and another penny. In his will he bequeathed all his effects to his domeſtics, yet, nevertheleſs, they were immediately ſeized and confiſcated to the king's uſe; to his church at Canterbury he gave a rich cope and mitre, and certain books of decrees and ordinances, publiſhed by himſelf in his life time, and ſtill preſerved in the archives at Lambeth, he aſſigned alſo to the monks of Canterbury, a penſion of five pounds, out of the churches of Boughton and Preſton, appropriated to the Abby of Feveſham. Of his religous eſtabliſhment at this town and of its endowments, we have ſpoken before in our deſcription of the church.

APPENDIX.

ROBERT de Stratford, the younger brother, was in his youth, rector of the parish church of Stratford upon-Avon, and at that time became a considerable benefactor to the town, in procuring a patent from King Edward the III. in the fifth year of his reign, enabling the inhabitants to receive a toll upon certain vendable commodities exposed for sale in the market, for the space of four years, the profits arising from thence, being applied to the purpose of paving the streets, but being found inadequate to the expence of that undertaking, the same patent, at his request, was twice renewed, the first time for four years more, the last for the space of two years, which appears to have completed the work.

As master of the Guild of the Holy Cross, he also superintended the erection of the Guild-hall and Alms-houses, founded by that fraternity, as we have before observed.

Being a man of an enterprizing disposition and eminent for his learning, it was not to be expected that he could long confine himself to the narrow limits of his native town, indeed he appears to have been promoted very early in life to the archdeaconry of Canterbury, which dignity he enjoyed for many years. In 1331, he received the great seal from his brother John, at that time lord chancellor of England, with the title of keeper, but restored it to him again in 1335. Upon the death of John de Langton, he succeeded that prelate in the episcopal see of Chichester, being confirmed bishop by the king's letters patent, dated October 23, and consecrated

conſecrated November 30, 1337: in the following year he was elected chancellor of the Univerſity of Oxford, at that time diſturbed by the violent contentions of the ſtudents† being divided into factions diſtinguiſhed by the northern and ſouthern ſcholars: their diſputes at length became ſo hot, that a great number of the northern men were conſtrained to retire to Stamford, then a large and flouriſhing town in Lincolnſhire, where they eſtabliſhed ſchools, and appointed profeſſors, deſigning to conſtitute a univerſity that ſhould rival Oxford: this however being ſtrictly forbidden by the king's proclamation, they were obliged under penalty of confiſcation of their effects, to return to their former ſituation, where, by the prudent management of the chancellor, their diſputes were amicably decided; who, with an intention of preventing ſuch future commotions, appointed that one proctor ſhould be elected from the northern and the other from the ſouthern ſtudents, which cuſtom afterwards prevailed for many years.

In the year 1338, Robert de Stratford ſucceeded his brother John in the exalted ſtation of lord chancellor of England, which weighty office he filled until 1340, when he became involved with the archbiſhop in his diſpute with king Edward the III. as we have in a former part related:--that monarch being obliged to raiſe the ſiege of Tourney in France, for want of money to pay his troops, returning ſuddenly to London with only a few followers, ſeized and committed our biſhop his chancellor, together

† *See Wood's Hiſt. and Antiq: Oxon: page* 165.

with the biſhop of Coventry, his treaſurer, priſoners to the tower, depriving them and many other officers concerned in the diſpoſing of the revenues, of their places. Stratford and his aſſociates, were accuſed of detaining the ſupplies granted to the king for carrying on the war, and entering into a treacherous conſpiracy to ruin his deſigns upon the crown of France:--however upon an inveſtigation of facts, their innocence being made clearly to appear, they were ſet at liberty, and once more received into regal favor.

In 1341, biſhop Stratford, for the laſt time, received the great ſeal as lord chancellor of England, which he does not appear to have held any conſiderable time, for we find Sir Robert Burgchier appointed to ſucceed him the ſame year. The remainder of his life ſeems to have been ſpent in retirement and the duties of his epiſcopal function: he died at a very advanced age, at Aldingburne, April 9, 1362, having ſat biſhop of Chicheſter twenty-five years.

APPENDIX.

RALPH de Stratford: what relation he was to the foregoing is unknown, it is certain however that he was of the ſame family, and alſo a native of Stratford-upon-Avon, which induced him to erect a manſion-houſe for the reſidence of the chauntry prieſts belonging to the chapel of St. Thomas.—We find Ralph de Stratford to have been at firſt a canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, but afterwards promoted to that dioceſe upon the death of Richard Bentworth; being conſecrated biſhop of London, at Canterbury, March 12, 1339, in the 14th of Edward III. Of this prelate little is recorded;—Stow in his ſurvey of London, affirms that he purchaſed a piece of ground called no-man's-land, near to Smithfield, and conſecrated it for a place of burial; this was during the great peſtilence in 1348, which ſays Stow, 'ſo waſted and ſpoiled the people, that ſcarce the tenth perſon of all ſorts was left alive; when churchyards were not ſufficient and large ynougd to bury their dead in, they choſe certain fields appoynded for that purpoſe.'

Ralph de Stratford died at Stupenheath, in 1353, having ſat biſhop of London fourteen years.

The manſion of the chauntry prieſts, afterwards called the college of Stratford-upon-Avon, (which appellation it has retained to this day) he began to erect in 1353 with ten maſons, as many carpenters and their ſervants; for whom (ſays Dugdale) he had obtained the king's letters patent, granting them ſpecial licence and protection until it ſhould

be

be compl'eted At the diſſolution of the college by King Henry the VIII. the ſite thereof was annexed to the crown lands, and in 1575, queen Elizabeth granted it to Ralph Coneyſby, Eſq. upon leaſe for twenty-one years; at the expiration of that time ſhe ſold it to John Combe, Eſq. who afterwards made it his principal place of reſidence, and died there without iſſue in 1614; when it came to his nephew William Combe, Eſq. who alſo reſided there, and filled the office of Sheriff for the county of Warwick, two ſeveral times, this gentleman dying without male iſſue in 1666, the college afterwards became the property of his nephew William Combe, Eſq. whoſe only daughter and heireſs Martha married Edward Clopton, Eſq. eldeſt ſon of Sir John Clopton, by Barbara daughter of Sir Edward Walker, 'garter king at arms, ſecretary of war to king Charles the I. and clerk of the privy council to king Charles the II.) who after the death of his father-in-law, by her means became heir to his eſtates: Edward Clopton, Eſq. bequeathed the college to Sir William Keyte, baronet, his nephew, by Agnes his eldeſt ſiſter, after whoſe untimely death, in 1741, it came to his ſon, Sir Thomas Charles Keyte, who ſold it to James Kendal, Eſq. that gentleman dying in 1751, our college became in the poſſeſſion of his nephew, the Rev. John Fullerton, rector of All Canons, Wilts, who in 1796, ſold it to Charles Hunt, Eſq of whom it was again purchaſed by Edmund Baterſbee, Eſq. its preſent poſſeſſor.

The building itſelf was ſtrong and ſpacious, being wholly conſtructed of hewn free-ſtone; in the center was a very ſpacious

ſpacious hall, extending the whole length of the front and vaulted to the roof; the ceiling was adorned with ſtucco work, and at each angle was a rude repreſentation of the emblematical devices attributed to the four evangeliſts; the right wing was occupied by the appartments originally deſtined for the warden and officiating prieſts, and ſince converted into a modern dining-room, drawing-room and library; in the left was the kitchen, with its offices, ſtables, &c.

In 1797, the furniture of this houſe, together with a collection of paintings, was ſold by auction; amongſt the paintings, were whole length portraits of Queen Elizabeth, King Charles II. Queen Ann, George Prince of Denmark, King George I. and King George II. a large ſcripture piece, repreſenting Samſon aſleep, with his head in Dalilah's lap, had conſiderable merit: another large piece bearing date 1641, which by an inſcription on its center, appears to have been the production of an Italian artiſt, was in great meaſure obſcured by time and filth, but when carefully cleaned was found to be in high preſervation; the ſubject is a ſacrifice to Jupiter, ſuppoſed to be performed by the Grecians at the tomb of Achilles, after the taking and deſtruction of Troy, the flaming city forming the back view; an half length portrait of Juxon, who when biſhop of London, attended the unfortunate Charles I. to the ſcaffold, and was afterwards by King Charles II. his ſucceſſor, conſtituted archbiſhop of Canterbury;---this painting in all probability was an original, as the pious biſhop, during the uſurpation of

of Cromwell, ſpent the greateſt part of his time at a ſeat not far diſtant form Stratford :-- another very beautiful half length portrait of a Lady Radnor, without date; ſome hunting pieces, pieces of ſtill life, many family portraits, and others too numerous for inſertion.